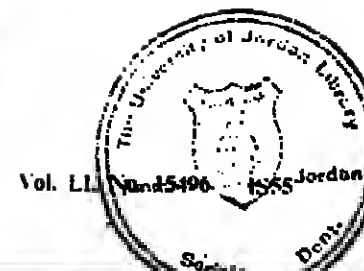


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Thursday, December 15, 1983

THE JERUSALEM POST



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Iraq bombs Iran towns in reprisal for Kuwait

TEHRAN (AP). — Iraqi planes and surface-to-surface missiles yesterday pounded targets in five Iranian towns in retaliation for Monday's air-bomb blasts in Kuwait, for Iraq holds Iran responsible, it officially announced here.

A military spokesman said Iraqi planes and missiles "successfully" struck targets at 1400 hours (4 p.m. in Israel) against targets in the Iranian towns of Ahmadiyeh, Babban, and Rambormos.

A spokesman said the attacks also in retaliation for Iranian attacks on Iraqi civilian targets in safe border towns.

Iran on Tuesday for Iraq's bomb attacks in Kuwait in the U.S. and French embassy and other local targets that left at least seven dead and about 80 injured.

Iraq will select Iranian targets "in them by military means in hment for this despicable Baghdad's state radio d a ministry official as saying in the day.

An official Iranian news agency in its first report on the mistake, said these were carried following threats made by President Ronald Reagan at the Islamic Republic.

An Iranian radio earlier quoted an entitled Iranian Foreign try spokesman as stating that "un had warned Iran to desist attacking American interests region.

Iranian President Ali Khamenei noted by IRNA yesterday as "ign any Iranian involvement in await blasts.

tributing such actions to Iran foolish and idiotic lie spread imperialist and Zionist.

Continued on Page 2, Col. 7)

Israel to ask \$2.6b. U.S. aid today

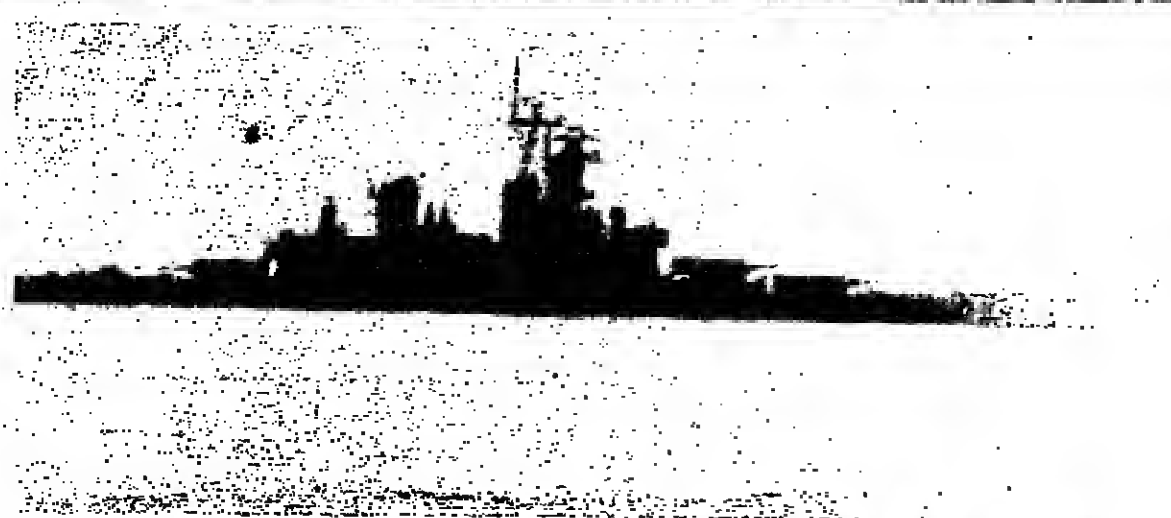
Post Economic Reporter
Israel is to submit its formal request for \$2.6 billion in U.S. aid today in Jerusalem and Washington today. The package of \$1.4b. in military aid and civilian aid and is for the U.S. year 1985. The request states Israel hopes to lower its standard of living by 10 per cent and to ve its balance of payments one year.

Confirmed reports say that a mission of senior U.S. administration economists is due to arrive early next month on a mission to review the economic situation and the steps taken by the Finance Ministry.

Ad holds talks with di foreign minister

ASCUS (Reuters). — Syrian lent Hafez Assad yesterday sed the situation in Lebanon Saudi Arabian Foreign ter Prince Saud Faisal, the of-Syrian news agency, Saa.

A meeting was Assad's first a visiting official since he was ill last month. According to al statements, he had an apx operation on November 14. nce Saud delivered a message King Fahd on Lebanon and developments in the Arab and took a reply from Assad. agency said, without giving s.



The 59,000-ton USS New Jersey, the only battleship in the world, cruises yesterday off Lebanon after firing 11 rounds from its 16-inch guns at Syrian-controlled territory. Two other U.S. ships fired 60 rounds. Yesterday's action was the first time since the Vietnam War that the New Jersey opened fire.

IDF said helping Christian evacuees

By MENAHEM HOROWITZ
Jerusalem Post Reporter
and agencies

An Israeli force, including some 60 vehicles, was reported to have crossed Lebanon's Awali River yesterday to help evacuate some 1,400 Phalangite militiamen and up to 10,000 Christian civilians from the besieged town of Deir al-Kamar.

According to agency reports from the town, which was placed under seige by Druze militiamen during the fierce fighting in the Shouf following Israel's withdrawal from the mountains earlier this year, the force crossed the Awali and moved towards Deir al-Kamar yesterday morning.

The Israel Defence Forces spokesman last night refused to comment on the reports that Israeli troops had crossed the Awali, or

that they would take part in the evacuation operation.

According to Christian sources in Lebanon, the evacuation was to have started last night, when 1,400 Phalangite militiamen were to have been evacuated from the town, to be followed by 10,000 civilians this morning. Reports from Beirut, however, indicated that the operation would begin only this morning.

The Associated Press quoted an Israeli spokesman in Lebanon as confirming that about 100 Israeli trucks were expected to enter Deir al-Kamar early this morning to evacuate the fighters to the village of Jiye, some 32 kms south of Beirut on the coastal highway.

From there, the Christiano militiamen were expected to return to East Beirut by boat.

The spokesman said Red Cross officials were expected to enter the

town shortly after the fighters' departure to begin taking out Christian civilians who fled there from other Shouf towns during the three-week Druze-Christian fighting of last September.

But a Christian source said some points still required further negotiations and it was not certain whether the civilians would leave at the same time as the fighters.

He said the points still in negotiation centred around security guarantees and re-establishing commerce in the Christian town located.

It was learned that the Phalange was urging that some civilians remain and the town not be deserted.

A Phalange commander in Deir al-Kamar said "the IDF's operation today is positive, it is a humanitarian action viewed positively by Christians in Lebanon."

Syria seen leaving political option open

Jerusalem Post Reporter

Syria is taking pains not to exacerbate relations with the U.S. because it is apparently leaving the political option for the solution of the Lebanese problem open, an informed military source said in Jerusalem yesterday.

The source added that "the door is open for American officials in Damascus."

The source said: "Damascus is squinting in the direction of Washington. It is far from clear that Syria is making preparations for a military option, as it appeared some time ago."

The source said that the Syrians would very much like to seize Yasser Arafat and place him under house arrest in order to neutralize him. However, the source believed that a number of foreign states will act to ensure that Arafat got out of Tripoli and reached a safe haven.

But getting all Arafat's men out constituted a different problem from merely helping Arafat to get out alone.

There are signs, he said, that the Soviet Union might put the Syrians in sole charge of the SAM-5 missile batteries sent to Syria. The Soviet Union has no desire to tangle with

American or Israeli aircraft, the source said. However, the handover would be a long and complicated process.

He said Soviet policy in the Middle East displays great caution and entails persuading Syria also to moderate its actions, with much success.

The source said that the US Sixth Fleet and the Marines have complete liberty to pick their targets.

Shi'ite terrorist activities are taking place on a scale that Israel over predicted or prepared for, and this new problem will require special measures.

Arens: Punitive demolition being reviewed

By ARYEH RUBINSTEIN
Post Knesset Reporter

The policy of blowing up the homes of Arabs in the administered areas found guilty of terrorist acts is being re-examined. Defence Minister Moshe Arens said yesterday.

Replying to a motion for the agenda by Yair Tsaban (Alignment-Mapam), Arens said that in the few cases where he had authorized such punishment, he had done so with considerable hesitation.

Israel has a serious problem in maintaining law and order in Judea and Samaria, Arens said. Disturbances of the peace are an everyday occurrence, "and we definitely have a problem finding punishments that have a deterrent effect and that enable us to enforce the law, also for the sake of the Arab inhabitants."

"We are trying to find punishments that are in keeping with our norms," Arens said.

"But only for the guilty parties," said Tsaban.

Regarding the criticism of Israel's behaviour in the

areas recently issued by the International Centre for Peace in the Middle East, which Tsaban had cited, Arens said that the ministry is preparing a detailed reaction.

In reply to another point raised by Tsaban, Arens said that government ministries are considering a request from the Histadrut to permit it to protect the rights of Arabs from the areas who work in Israel.

A coalition majority supported Arens' recommendation that Tsaban's motion be struck from the agenda, by a vote of 40-33.

Avraham Hirschson (Likud-La'am), in his maiden speech, presented a motion for the agenda on "disturbances in Judea and Samaria."

He said that stone-throwing must be stopped, and that the best solution is for more Jews to settle there. But when Jews take the law into their own hands, they play into the hands of the Arab extremists, who are aiming for such a deterioration, Hirschson said.

Arens agreed with the motion, and it was referred to the Foreign Affairs and Defence Committee.

Wounded PLO fighters to leave

TRIPOLI (AP). — An Italian ship scheduled to arrive within 24 hours will evacuate 97 critically wounded Palestinians, PLO loyalist officials said yesterday.

The terrorists, wounded in fighting between PLO factions loyal to Yasser Arafat and Syrian-backed rebels, have been waiting here for five days, and "cannot wait any more while negotiations drag on over the evacuation of all Palestinian fighters" from both sides, said Arafat's chief spokesman, Ahmed Abdul-Rahman.

In Rome, an Italian news agency report said the ferry Apria would take the terrorists to Cyprus under the direction of the International Red Cross. The report said an air-

plane was also standing by at the military airport of Ciampino, outside Rome, to ferry a Red Cross group of seven doctors and 12 nurses to Cyprus to meet the wounded. Italian officials could not be reached for comment.

Arafat told reporters yesterday that the major holdup in the planned evacuation of more than 4,000 terrorists concerned demands for security guarantees by the Greek government.

(Continued on Page 2, Col. 4)

Ex-juntaists in Argentina to be tried for terror

BUENOS AIRES (AP). — Argentina's new civilian president said Tuesday he will initiate charges of spreading "terror, pain and death throughout Argentine society" against leaders of the previous military regime.

Raul Alfonsin, a 56-year-old lawyer and human-rights advocate who was sworn in Saturday, announced that he would begin the "corresponding legal steps" against nine generals and admirals who formed the three three-man juntas that ruled the nation from 1976-1982.

The new president said he also would start legal proceedings against individuals who have "prima facie" responsibility for terrorist actions during the early and mid-1970s.

The military overthrew President Isabel Peron in 1976. The junta turned power back to civilians

through the October elections that swept Alfonsin's Radical Civic Union to power in a surprise victory over the Peronists, traditionally Argentina's strongest party.

Alfonsin announced the measures in a 25-minute address on radio and television.

Through powers granted the chief executive in the constitution, he issued two decrees declaring the necessity to prosecute seven leaders of guerrilla or terrorist organizations and nine generals and admirals.

The military men will be judged by the supreme council of the armed forces, a tribunal comprised of nine retired generals and admirals. But Alfonsin said the verdict and sentence of the military tribunal will be subject to review by the supreme court under a law he will send to Congress.

Reagan: May withdraw Marines if chaos reigns

By WOLF BLITZER
Jerusalem Post Correspondent

WASHINGTON. — President Ronald Reagan yesterday for the first time spoke of withdrawing U.S. military forces from Lebanon should it become clear that prospects for stabilizing the situation in that war-torn country have completely collapsed.

At a White House news conference, the president raised two possibilities for removing the Marines from Lebanon. "One of them would be if we achieve our goal," Reagan said. "The second would, of course, be if there were such a collapse of order that it was absolutely certain there was no solution to the problem, there would be no reason for them to stay there."

Pressed on this latter point, Reagan said he did not want to speculate about "hypotheticals." But he added: "I'm simply saying that if there was such a complete collapse and there was no possibility

of restoring order, there would be no purpose for the Multinational Force."

In marked contrast, only last Saturday the president said in a radio address that the Marines would be removed only after Lebanon's internal stability had been restored and the withdrawal of all foreign forces assured. There was no mention of any collapse of Lebanese President Amin Jemayel's regime.

Thus, Reagan's comments yesterday immediately raised speculation among diplomatic observers here that the president was opening yet a new possibility for removing the Marines.

Reagan answered questions in the White House briefing room after the USS New Jersey off the Lebanese coast opened fire on Syrian positions. The order for the New Jersey to fire came after U.S. F-14 Tomcat reconnaissance planes flying over Lebanon had once again been attacked by the Syrians.

But Reagan yesterday also sought to ease concerns the U.S. was

heading towards war with Syria or Iran. Both countries have been accused of being behind the latest suicide bombings against U.S. installations.

Reagan said the U.S. does not intend to retaliate against either of those countries. He also sought to limit the U.S. response to the attacks against the F-14s.

"We have taken a position and it is our policy that if this continues — we're not there to shoot first or enter into combat," he said regarding the F-14s. "But I am never going to send our men any place where they wouldn't be allowed to defend themselves. It's been our policy that if they are attacked, they will defend."

In response to another question, Reagan said: "Now, we've seen these instances of being attacked, and we have retaliated as nearly as we can against those who have actually done the attacking. And we want no conflict with Syria. Certainly, we are not there to enter into a war. We continue to try and com-

(Continued on Page 3)

U.S. warships rain 71 shells on Syrians

BEIRUT (AP). — The USS New Jersey, the world's only operational battleship, blasted targets deep in Syrian-held territory yesterday with the largest guns afloat. Two smaller warships joined in the naval bombardment.

U.S. officials said the New Jersey, the destroyer USS Tattal, and the guided-missile cruiser USS Ticonderoga rained 71 shells on anti-aircraft positions north and east of the Lebanese capital after Syrian batteries fired on U.S. Navy F-14s on reconnaissance flights.

In Damascus, the Syrian defence minister confirmed that Syrian bat-

teries fired at the U.S. overflights, which the Syrians branded "a new premeditated aggression against our forces in Lebanon."

Arab diplomatic sources in Damascus said King Fahd of Saudi Arabia had called on President Hafez Assad to refrain from attacking U.S. warships in efforts to cool the escalating tension between the U.S. and Syria.

Yesterday marked the second straight day U.S. warships had fired on Syrian-held territory after anti-aircraft batteries there had shot at F-14s over the upper Mattan Mountains.

Yesterday was the first time the giant World War II battleship had fired its giant 16-inch (405 millimetre) guns since it moved to the Lebanese coast last September to protect U.S. Marines in the Multinational Peacekeeping Force.

State-run Beirut Radio said the targets were near the towns of Tarshish and Jouar al-Haqoz and in the Dahr al-Baida area along the Beirut-Damascus highway.

Dahr al-Baida lies only eight kilometres west of the Bekaa Valley town of Chitaura, headquarters of Syrian forces in Lebanon, and about

(Continued on Page 2, Col. 5)

Arens in Knesset: 'We seek others to police Lebanon'

By ARYEH RUBINSTEIN
Post Knesset Reporter

Defence Minister Moshe Arens said yesterday that the government is working energetically to set up alternative frameworks in Lebanon that will take over policing duties now being performed by the Israel Defence Forces.

Replying in the Knesset to a motion for the agenda by Amnon Rubinstein (Shinui), Arens said that the best alternative would be through the Lebanese government in Beirut. But, he added, "I don't know whether that can be done."

In any case, Arens said, Israel will leave southern Lebanon only when it feels confident that, upon leaving, terror will not return to these areas and harm the residents of Galilee.

He said he was glad that people had stopped "shouting from the rooftops" that we must leave Lebanon "immediately." Even the Alignment's Yosef Sarid had changed his mind on this, Arens noted.

Commenting on Rubinstein's call for negotiations with Jordan, Arens said: "We've been waiting for King Hussein for 35 years now. The door is open."

But from Hussein's interview with American newsmen David Brinkley last Sunday, it was clear that the king was not hurrying into negotiations with Israel. He was not ready to undertake such talks, and his hesitation had no connection with anything that Israel had or had not done, but stemmed from considerations of his own, Arens said.

Arens practically wrote off the possibility of reaching agreement with President Hafez Assad of Syria. He said that Assad heads one

of the four "crazy" regimes in the Middle East, the other three being those of Mu'ammur Gaddafi in Libya, Saddam Hussein in Iraq, and the Ayatollah Khomeini in Iran.

"From time to time, it is worth reminding ourselves with whom we are dealing in the Middle East," Arens said.

Even the Americans are coming to understand that, the minister said. No longer were they advising Israel to "make concessions" or

(Continued on Page 2, Col. 7)

Pay-cut proposal deeply divides Labour

By AVI TEMKIN
Post Economic Reporter

The Knesset factions seemed internally divided yesterday on the proposed 10 per cent cut in the salaries of judges, ministers and Knesset Members as the House Finance Committee started its deliberations on the issue.

While most of the coalition seemed yesterday to favour the proposed cut, the Alignment was deeply divided on the question. The Alignment faction had apparently decided to vote against the proposal, arguing that it could be interpreted as meaning that wages, rather than the government's policies, were to blame for the economic situation.

But four Alignment members of the committee — MKs Imri Ron, Yehuda Hashai, Arye Nchamkin and Natfali Feder — argued that the measure was a matter of conscience and decided to support the proposed cut.

At the same time, most of those in favour of the cut were against extending it to judges, arguing that this would discourage able lawyers from accepting judicial appointments.

The Likud whip on the committee, Yigal Cohen supported the proposed cut and said that last October, the salary of an MK was more than double the wage of a public-sector employee at the highest seniority grade.

Committee chairman Shlomo Lorincz, who raised the proposal at the meeting, said the government's intention to cut real wages in the public sector makes it necessary to adopt the 10 per cent cut.

But Lorincz also proposed to adjust the wages of ministers and MKs every three months. Under current arrangements, the salaries of judges, MKs and ministers are increased twice a year in accordance with the increase in the average wage in the economy. In addition, these salaries receive cost-of-living compensation quarterly. This, however, affects only a small part of them, since they are much higher than the ceiling for C-o-L payments.

Thus, if adopted, Lorincz's proposal could avoid the erosion in the wages of senior office holders during the coming months since they would be adjusted in January, and not in April as now scheduled.

Shippers' council director Arye Mechoual told The Post that seaborne exports have been halted, as the exporters are refraining from sending goods to the ports. They have already missed the winter shopping season in Europe, and with 2,000 containers of cargo stuck in the 40 freighters and on the quays in the two ports, it was pointless to add to the congestion.

He said that 500 containers of imports, mostly raw materials for industry, had been dumped in Piraeus harbour in Greece by freighters whose owners wanted to avoid the congestion here, and another 350

(Continued on Page 2, Col. 2)

Desperate shippers turn to Shamir on port strike

By YA'ACOV FRIEDLER
Jerusalem Post Reporter

HAIFA. — The Shippers' Council yesterday called on Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir to receive a delegation of the "despairing" importers and exporters to discuss ways of putting an immediate end to the go-slow action by the stevedores in Ashdod and Haifa harbours.

There were no negotiations yesterday to settle the strike, and the next meeting between the Ports Authority, the stevedores committees and the Histadrut is scheduled for today.

The Jerusalem Post learned that the Histadrut yesterday conferred with the Ashdod and Haifa labour councils to coordinate positions.

Informed sources said that the key to the dispute is in the hands of

the Histadrut, which is backing the workers' demand for a 27 per cent wage rise.

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(Continued on Page 2, Col. 2)

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14.12.83	MIN.	MAX.	C F C F
AMSTERDAM	-2	8	28 46
BRUSSELS	-3	7	25 41
BUENOS AIRES	13	27	55 80
CHICAGO	0	33	32 91
COPENHAGEN	-2	26	28 79
FRANKFURT	-2	26	28 79
GOSNIA	-2	26	28 79
HELSINKI	-2	26	28 79
HONG KONG	18	26	64 79
JOHANNESBURG	18	26	64 79
LISBON	6	43	43 109
LONDON	5	43	41 109
MADRID	1	34	34 93
MONTREAL	1	34	34 93
NEW YORK	10	60	50 140
OSLO	1	34	34 93
PARIS	-3	27	25 81
RIO DE JANEIRO	22	34	72 93
SAO PAULO	18	26	64 79
STOCKHOLM	10	14	50 57
TORONTO	7	18	45 64
TORONTO	17	18	63 64
VIENNA	7	18	45 64
ZURICH	-2	8	28 46

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THE WEATHER

Forecast: Partially cloudy

Yesterday's Humidity	Yesterday's Min-Max	Today's Max
Jerusalem 76	9-13	15
Golan 75	9-14	16
Nahariya 73	8-11	20
Safed 81	6-10	12
Haifa Port 72	12-19	20
Tiberias 70	10-18	21
Nazareth 65	7-19	16
Afula 65	7-17	21
Shomron 73	7-17	21
Tel Aviv 67	11-18	18
B-G Alport 67	11-19	20
Jericho 58	9-22	23
Gaza 65	12-19	20
BeerSheva 60	10-19	21
Eilat 83	10-23	24

SOCIAL & PERSONAL

President Chaim Herzog and Mrs. Aura Herzog last night gave a dinner reception at the President's residence in Jerusalem in honour of Bohdan Lewandowski, of Warsaw, who served for 17 years as UN Undersecretary-General to New York. Among the guests were Minister without Portfolio Sarah Doron, Knesset Member Eliazar Granot, former MK Arie Eliazar, Professor Galia Golan and Yosef Govrin, director of the Foreign Ministry's East European Department.

The German Ambassador and Mrs. Niels Hansen yesterday hosted a luncheon at their Herzliya home for Joachim Clemens and Engelbert Nelle, sports experts of the Bundestag. Many local sports figures attended.

Rotarian Ephraim Lital will speak about advertising to the Rotary Club at the Tel Aviv Hilton at 1:15 p.m. today.

In Memoriam

The first anniversary of the death of Haim Laskov, Israel's fifth chief of staff, was marked at a memorial assembly in Haifa yesterday attended by hundreds of persons and addressed by Communications Minister Mordechai Zippori, Mayor Aryeh Gurel, and the widow, author Shulamit Laskov.

Ben-Eliezer visits State Department

WASHINGTON. — The coordinator of activities in the administered territories, Tat-Aluf Binyamin Ben-Eliezer, met on Tuesday with senior State Department officials to discuss ways of improving the "quality of life" for the Palestinians there.

The meeting was proposed by Defence Minister Arens during his recent talks in Washington.

Secretary of State Shultz is reportedly anxious to find some practical steps to improve conditions for the Palestinians even in advance of any formal peace talks.

Traffic offence fines to go up 600%

Jerusalem Post Reporter
Traffic offence fines will go up by 600 per cent on January 1, following an order signed yesterday by Transport Minister Haim Corfu and Justice Minister Moshe Nissim. The last time fines were increased was March, 1982.

Following are some of the new penalties: failing to use a seat belt, IS2,700; operating an unlicensed vehicle, IS3,000; violating a "No Entry" sign, IS2,700; violating a "No Stopping" sign, IS1,500; failing to stop to the right, IS2,700; failing to signal or to cancel a signal, IS1,500; failing to post a red warning triangle after dark to keep other drivers away from a stalled vehicle, IS3,000; pedestrian's violation of a traffic sign, IS900; and operating a motorized two-wheeled vehicle without wearing a helmet, IS1,800.

Sports arena being built at Ma'aleh Efrain

Jerusalem Post Reporter
Construction of a 500-seat sports arena has begun at Ma'aleh Efrain in the Jordan Rift. The Housing and Construction Ministry, which is building the facility, is also sponsoring construction of 30 more residential housing units in the settlement, with 40 more units being planned for other Rift communities.

HOME AND WORLD NEWS

Knesset debates pension-tax bill

Post Knesset Reporter

Gainfully employed men under 60 and women under 55 who receive pensions from their previous place of work will lose the 35 per cent tax exemptions they now get on their pensions, under a bill presented for its first reading yesterday by Finance Minister Yigal Cohen-Orgad.

He described the bill, an amendment to the Income Tax Ordinance, as one that plugs tax loopholes. It also deals with the employers' contributions to an advanced-study fund (keren hishtalmut).

It provides that such contributions, within the limits laid down in a collective agreement, shall be regarded as the employees' income at the time they receive the money from the fund — which is to the employees' benefit. But contributions above the prescribed limit will be treated as income at the time they are paid into the fund.

The debate was begun, over the Alignment's objection, after a long

day of motions for the agenda. But Deputy Speaker Meir Cohen-Avidov relented, after three speakers had spoken, and agreed to defer the continuation of the debate till next week.

Also to be debated next week is the education fee bill, which Cohen-Orgad also presented for its first reading yesterday.

In reply to three motions for the agenda on the increases, actual and projected, in bank fees, Cohen-Orgad said that a distinction must be made between fees for bank services obtainable elsewhere, and those for which the banks enjoy a monopoly. He agreed that there was room for intensifying state control over the latter.

The motions, which were presented by Haim Ramon (Alignment-Labour), Mordechai Virshupski (Shinui), and Yitzhak Seiger (Likud-Liberals) were referred to the Finance Committee.

Regular Army Pay
Defence Minister Moshe Arens

said yesterday that the pay of Regular Army officers has declined in the past few years in relation to other sectors, and that this must be taken into account when the government's policy of reducing real wages — with which he fully agreed — is implemented.

He was replying to a motion for the agenda by Michael Harish (Alignment-Labour), who said that the Israel Defence Forces are losing some of their best officers to the private sector. Talk about the government's intention of cutting IDF salaries and taxing the pensions of retired officers was harming morale.

Arens said that those circles that are "engaged in a crusade to cut the defence budget" often also manifest a certain contempt for Regular Army officers. This was both shortsighted and dangerous, Arens said. He did not give his opinion on the taxation of pensions of retired officers under 60.

Bnei Brak appoints 5 deputy mayors despite warning

Jerusalem Post Reporter

The Bnei Brak municipality last night appointed four deputy mayors and one acting mayor — in defiance of an instruction from the Interior Ministry not to do so.

In a message to Mayor Moshe Orenstein, ministry Director-General Haim Kubersky pointed out that according to the Local Authorities Law, Bnei Brak is permitted only two deputy mayors and one acting mayor.

The ceiling applies regardless of whether the deputy mayors are on the payroll or serve as shikel-a-year dignitaries.

The city council apparently disregarded Kobersky's message, however, and went ahead with the appointments at a council meeting last night.

WOUNDED

(Continued from Page One)

Asked when the evacuation would begin, he said: "I don't know... All preparations for our departure are ready now, especially from our side and from the Lebanese side. We are awaiting the Greek ships and yesterday (Tuesday), I was informed that they are still waiting for guarantees."

The Greek government has asked for protection for the sea voyage from the four-nation multinational peacekeeping force in Lebanon, made up of U.S., French, Italian and British troops. The French have reportedly agreed.

The demand came in the wake of three shelling attacks by Israeli gunboats on Tripoli since last Friday.

Yesterday, Israeli warplanes circled over Tripoli for about 45 minutes, drawing heavy anti-aircraft fire. At least one plane was seen dropping heat balloons designed to divert anti-aircraft missiles.

Khalil Wazir (Abu Jihad), Arafat's chief military aide, said in an interview with the Associated Press yesterday that Lebanese police officers yesterday inspected with Palestinian officers the front lines separating the loyalists from Syrian and rebel forces "to prepare for the deployment of the internal Lebanese security forces as a disengagement force as the evacuation gets under way."

He said 400 Lebanese security men will be deployed along the co-frontation line.

Earlier, Arafat aides said shelling duels broke out between loyalist and rebel forces just after dawn, but stopped about an hour later.

State-run Beirut Radio said two Lebanese soldiers were wounded, when a mortar round landed on a sentry post at the Officer's Club in the city.



Jerusalem Magistrates Court Judge Ezra Kamma (centre) is escorted by police officers through the Old City yesterday on their way to hold a hearing at the Birkat Avraham Yeshiva, which has been ordered to stop illegal construction. (Rahamim Israeli)

Birkat Avraham demolition deferred pending appeal

By MICHAEL EILAN
Jerusalem Post Reporter

Jerusalem municipal officials waited all day yesterday for a chance to tear down illegal construction on top of the Birkat Avraham Yeshiva in the Moslem quarter of the Old City, but were told last night that they must wait until an appeal is heard in the district court on Sunday.

A day of legal wrangling preceded the decision by District Court Judge Eliahu Beo-Zimra who decided the appeal should be heard by a three-judge panel.

The municipality had issued an administrative order signed by Mayor Teddy Kollek to tear down an extra room built over a stairwell on the third floor of the yeshiva.

The yeshiva's patron, Abraham Dwek, is still being held in the police lock-up, because of his alleged refusal to comply both with a court order to stop building and the demolition order. His lawyers appealed the demolition order at the municipal court, where Judge Ezra Kamma decided he had to visit the site to give his decision.

Kamma ruled before dusk that city crews could go ahead with the wrecking, but the Birkat Avraham lawyers won another three hours of grace in which to appeal to the district court.

At the time of the appeal, the yeshiva's lawyers argued that the Moslem quarter should be populated by as many Jews as possible.

U.S. BATTLESHIP

(Continued from Page One)

25 kilometres west of the Syria border.

The New Jersey's guns can hurl an 862 kilogram shell up to 37 kilometres.

Yesterday's naval bombardment took place shortly before the arrival in Damascus of special U.S. Middle East envoy Donald Rumsfeld.

Rumsfeld, who flew to the Syrian capital from Amman, Jordan, was to meet with Syrian officials on ways to defuse the mounting crisis between Syria and the U.S. and break the impasse over the withdrawal of Israeli, Syrian and

Palestinian forces from Lebanon.

The naval gunfire came during a day of renewed clashes in Beirut's southern neighbourhoods between the Lebanese Army and anti-government militiamen from the Druse Progressive Socialist Party and the Shi'ite Moslem Amal militia.

Police told to give top priority to grenade case

Jerusalem Post Reporter

Attorney-General Yitzhak Zamir has told the police to give the case of the booby-trapped grenades on Mt. Zion and at Husan, as well as the case of the arson of six Arab-owned cars in Abu Tor "the highest priority."

In a meeting with senior officers, Zamir promised yesterday that if the perpetrators are caught — as a result of what he called "non-routine" efforts by the police — the state attorney's office would seek "the heaviest punishments" for the culprits.

Ministry denies U.S. asked passage for PLO

A Defence Ministry spokesman said yesterday that news reports to the effect that U.S. Undersecretary of State Lawrence Eagleburger had asked Defence Minister Moshe Arens to permit PLO to leave Tripoli were incorrect.

No such request was made, spokesman said.

Energy Minister Yitzhak Mordechai said yesterday that Israel had determined to fight the terrorism all means.

Labour party leader Shimon Peres, returning from a visit to U.S. yesterday, said that it should not hinder Yasser Arafat's departure from Tripoli.

The defence minister's media adviser, Nahman Shapira, yesterday denied that Arens had attributed Monday's truck bomb attacks in Kuwait to the PLO, clarified that Arens, in an interview with ABC on Monday, had compared terror acts with acts, by saying that giving freedom to the PLO from Tripoli would be like letting the perpetrators of the attacks in Kuwait leave with UN flag.

POLICING

(Continued from Page One)

promising that our quitting that area would ensure peace for the Arabs.

Asked by Mordechai Virshupski (Shinui) whether Israel under circumstances would sign a belligerency or a peace agreement with Assad, Arens replied: "When Syria is ready to negotiate with us on a peace agreement, I advise our negotiators to come to what extent that regime will behind the obligations it undertakes — to consider the nature of regime."

Mordechai Gur (Alignment-Labour): "On the fourth day of war, the prime minister said in Knesset that Assad is a leader whom we can sign a treaty. We have an agreement with Syria on Golan that has stood up for years. For 10 years the Golan has been quiet."

Arens: "If it's quiet, it's because Assad believes that most honour one's undertakings for other reasons that are known to you."

Gur: "Yes, because the government of Israel had a policy."

The motion was referred to Foreign Affairs and Defence Committee.

IRAQ

(Continued from Page One)

propaganda networks," Khan was quoted as saying.

Iran confirmed the attacks, said that six towns had been hit, including Ahwaz.

The combined casualty toll from the missile attacks and air raids 21 dead and 222 wounded, 18 reported.

The agency, monitored Nicosia, gave the following breakdown: Andimeshk: six dead and 100 wounded; Balibahani: dead, 14 wounded; Ramhorm: nine dead, 48 wounded; Dezful: dead, and Nahavand 10 wounded.

There were no immediate casualty reports from Ahwaz. IRNA said rescue squads were working feverishly after sunset to dig out people trapped in the rubble of collapsed houses and shops.

The attacked cities are all located in Iran's southern oil-rich Khuzestan province whose capital Ahwaz is 100 km. east of the border.

Andimeshk and Dezful are about 80 km. east of the border. Ramhorm is 90 km. east of Bahbahan and Nahavand 215 km. and 200 km. respectively east of the border.

We mourn the death of our beloved mother

RACHEL BROWN

of Kibbutz Yasur and Dublin

The funeral will take place at Kibbutz Yasur today, December 15, 1983 at 2.30 p.m.

Sara Sharon
Emanuel and Tirza Brown
Evelyn and Lutz Weil
Rita and Benno Zel
Malke Meron
Shirley and Maurice Samuelson
Leslie and Elaine Brown
Rita Brown
and all her brothers, sisters, grandchildren and great-grandchildren

With great sorrow we announce the death of our member

KIKRIT (Kay) SADEH

The funeral will take place today, December 15, 1983 at 2.00 p.m. at Kibbutz Kfar Blum.

The Family at Beit Kfar Blum

The Administration and Faculty of The Welworth Barbour American International School

share in the grief of Ephraim Salomonowicz on the death of his dear father

Dr. ABRAHAM SALOMONOWICZ

Wa deeply mourn the passing of our beloved

SUSI (Shoshana) BRODNITZ

on December 14, 1983.

The funeral will take place on December 15, at 2.30 p.m. and will leave from the Municipal Funeral Parlour, 5 Rehov Daffa, Tel Aviv for the Holon cemetery.

Please refrain from condolence visits

The Family

There will be a memorial service and the unveiling of the tombstone for

Dr. ARTUR LOEWENTHAL

at the Southern Cemetery, Holon — Bet-Yam boundary, on Sunday, December 18, at 3.30 p.m. Wa will meet at the new gate.

Wa wish to thank all in Israel and abroad who shared in our great sorrow.

The Family

סדרה 101

Herzliya mayor destroys gardens

By PAUL KOHN
Jerusalem Post Reporter

TEL AVIV. — In an operation carried out with military precision starting at 6 a.m. yesterday, bulldozers of the Herzliya Municipality smashed into the front gardens of houses and tore down 20-year-old trees in order to widen Rehov Yameginim in Herzliya Pituah. The bulldozing was by personal order of the town's new mayor, Eli Landau, who visited the site shortly after the operation began.

Homeowners were able to obtain an injunction from the Tel Aviv Magistrate's Court stopping the work for 48 hours, but by the time it was presented at 2 p.m., it was too late for many of the properties. Rehov Yameginim is used daily by many children on their way to and from school, the local community centre and Scout headquarters.

Arie Glass, an El Al flight engineer who was at home observing the Shiva mourning for his late father, Ben Hirsch, 85, said the bulldozers drove into their gardens without any notice being given. They have lived in Herzliya Pituah for 22 and 14 years respectively. The bulldozers uprooted olive



A bulldozer clears foliage in Herzliya Pituah.

and fruit trees, tamarisks, and a collection of rare cacti grown by Hillson as a hobby in one of the most carefully tended gardens in the area. His car was towed away, gates and hedges were torn out and the electricity was cut. Convoys of trucks removed the foliage and earth and brought sand for road building. The families and neighbours stood by helplessly. Glass called the police, but they did not arrive.

"We lived here before there was any road," Mrs. Glass said. "Then, the Herzliya municipality told us to plant the lawns, flowers and trees that they are now destroying." Earlier this month, Mrs. Rina Knoll, of the Society for a Beautiful Israel, appealed to the Jewish National Fund to have the tamarisks protected.

Meshulam Granot, the city engineer, and Asher Spitzer, the municipal road engineer, took charge of the clearing work and road building, carried out with an efficiency never before seen in Herzliya.

"What was a four-metre strip of asphalt will now become 12 metre wide road," Granot said. He said the municipality tried unsuccessfully to negotiate with the families affected, "as their gardens spread out to government land."

Mayor Landau said: "I gave the order to carry out today's work at Rehov Yameginim and to finish the job fast, or we would be discussing the matter for the next 10 years. I will not shrink from taking painful decisions. Parents have been complaining, and I saw myself how children had to dodge between cars

on their way to school.

"I am more concerned about the life of one child than the gardens of the privileged. I will destroy all non-legal buildings in Herzliya, so long as I am mayor of this town," Landau told *The Jerusalem Post*.

Lawyer David Kosovsky, who represented the homeowners in negotiations with the municipality declared the action "totally illegal." It was trespassing, he contended, saying that only court order can permit the municipality to take such action.

"We understand that the street had to be improved for the sake of children and their parents and were ready to compromise with the municipality. I would never have believed that such bulldozer methods would be used in this country," Glass said.

MKs slam chief rabbi's remarks on Arab death

By ASHER WALLFISH
Post Knesset Correspondent

Two Labour Knesset Members yesterday sharply criticized Sephardi Chief Rabbi Mordechai Eliahu for saying that the shooting of an 11-year-old Arab girl in Nablus a few days ago was not murder but self-defence justified according to the Halacha (Jewish law).

A statement from Eliahu's office explained that the chief rabbi's comments were made in reply to the question: "What does the Halacha rule in the case of a man who shoots in self-defence and happens to kill a person whom he did not intend to kill?"

MK Uzi Baram, who swung the decisive blow in the Chief Rabbinate electoral college to Eliahu's side thus ensuring his election, wrote to Eliahu telling him that his declaration about the fatal shooting, made in a statement to an audience at the yeshiva in Shilo, had gone too far.

Baram warned Eliahu that his statement could encourage extremists to kill again, because he gave the impression that killing Arabs is no crime.

"Everyone who helped get you elected as chief rabbi is disillusioned and frustrated," Baram wrote Eliahu.

Baram reminded the chief rabbi that when they met during the chief rabbinate election campaign, he had spoken to Eliahu of the rabbi's ultra-nationalist affiliations as a young man. Eliahu had promised

that he would adopt a moderate stance to prevent relations between Jews and Arabs from deteriorating. (Eliahu was detained 24 years ago for membership in an anti-state underground made up of religious zealots.)

Yosef Sarid, Baram's Labour Knesset colleague, wrote that justifying the murder of Arab children, the chief rabbi automatically justified the murder of Jewish children. Sarid wrote to Eliahu: "Woe to the Jewish morality that you represent and woe to the chief rabbinate that you head."

"Your statement has disqualified you from serving in your high office," Sarid wrote.

Baram has also demanded that his faction reprimand Shoshana Arbeli Almoshino, chairman of the Interior Committee, for advocating Jewish prayer on the Temple Mount. Baram said that she was "strengthening the hands of irresponsible extremists like Haim Drukman (Matzad) and Hanan Porat (Tehiya)."

The Interior Committee yesterday discussed the bid in March by young Jewish extremists to tunnel into the Temple Mount area. Dov Ben-Meir (Labour) said the government was probably not pushing the security services hard enough to solve crimes such as the booby-trap attacks on West Bank Arab mayors and the killing of Emil Grunzweig outside the Prime Minister's Office in Jerusalem during a demonstration.

Sabbath bus decision held dangerous

Post Knesset Correspondent

Alignment-Labour Knesset Member Raanan Naim said yesterday that many youngsters in Haifa and Galilee will have to hitch-hike on Saturdays if the Transport Ministry goes ahead with its intention of stopping Sabbath bus transport in the Haifa area. He warned that this will expose the youngsters to danger.

Naim, who was demanded a debate on the issue, said that Transport Minister Haim Cori will have to bear a heavy responsibility for this coalition agreement with Agudat Yisrael.

Soldiers on weekend leave will suffer especially from this surrender to "a marginal element in Israeli society," Naim said.

The Hineinu Youth Movement of Western Galilee yesterday condemned the plan. A movement spokesman called it a "one-sided step" and an example of religious coercion.

The movement sent a telegram to Cori demanding that the "miserable decision" be revoked.

In Nahariya, the municipality is weighing the possibility of setting up a private transport system that will operate on Shabbat and other Jewish holy days.

AMBASSADORS. — Kenya and Tanzania, normalizing ties after a six-year chill, agreed yesterday to establish ambassadorial-level diplomatic relations.

Itzan: Don't blame Arabs for Katz killing

By DAVID RUDGE
Jerusalem Post Reporter

AIFA. — Police Inspector-General Arye Itzan yesterday criticized people blaming the murder of Danny Katz on "certain groups of our public."

In an obvious reference to un-ended statements accusing hostile Arab elements in the killing, Itzan said: "To point an accusing finger at certain groups of our public who might be involved in this heinous crime is very irresponsible."

Katz's mutilated body was found a Galilee pine forest on Sunday. Itzan urged the public to remain calm, saying that hysteria will only impede the murder investigation. Children, especially, need to be on their guard, but the "terrible tragedy" should not be blown up out of proportion, he said.

Speaking during a visit to Haifa police headquarters, Itzan said

that the police have a good record of solving serious crimes.

At the moment, police do not have any information linking Katz's murder with that of Dafna Carmon or with any other murders or cases of missing persons, he said. (Carmon, 22, was found dead in the Mount Carmel area in July, 1982.)

The investigating team is checking through police files of all suspected and convicted sex offenders, Itzan said.

Detectives have interviewed several youngsters who were the victims of attempted sex assaults by drivers who gave them lifts. These youngsters include a 14-year-old boy and 12-year-old girls from the

Danya neighbourhood where Katz lived.

The Danya Residents Association is to meet tonight to discuss security arrangements in the area and the alleged lack of public transport facilities which they say forces their children to hitchhike.

In the Knesset yesterday, Arab Labour Knesset Member Hamad Halaila, who lives in Sakbain in Lower Galilee, said that the name of the entire Israeli Arab community was being unfairly blackened over the Katz murder.

He expressed his condolences to the bereaved family and his hopes that the murderers would soon be caught and brought to trial.

J'lem city engineer must stop work in private office

By AARON SITTNER
Jerusalem Post Reporter

Jerusalem municipal engineer Amnon Niv will not be permitted to hold his job if he continues in his private practice as architect and town planner, the Interior Ministry informed Mayor Teddy Kolek yesterday.

The ministry cited criticisms raised by the State Comptroller about possible conflict of interest.

Stressing that the ban on Niv's dual occupations "is definitely not based on personal considerations but entirely on the moral aspects," ministry director-general Haim Kubersky told Kolek that if Niv wishes to continue his work for the municipality he will have to devote all his working time to being municipal engineer. However, he may hold on to his interest in his private office.

In addition, Kubersky wrote, Niv may lecture at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem or abroad, if he wishes. "But as for working as an architect or planner, we must

regretfully say no — even outside Jerusalem, since there can easily be a conflict of interest between a project anywhere in the country and his position as city engineer of Jerusalem."

A source at the ministry explained that a conflict-of-interest situation could arise if Niv, as Jerusalem municipal engineer, had to deal with a government agency, such as the Housing and Construction Ministry, in connection with a project anywhere in the country being executed by his firm.

Michael Eilon adds: Niv had originally agreed to give up his private practice and work full-time in his Jerusalem office. He asked for Interior Ministry approval to continue supervising three projects, including drawing up master plans for Eilat and for Ariel in Samaria. The Interior Ministry's decision means, in effect, that Niv will no longer be able to work on these projects, which at one time he said he must keep.

Girl, 6, rescued from man molesting her

TEL AVIV. — A six-year-old girl was saved from possible rape yesterday by an alert Holon resident, who ran to help her when he saw a man push her into a building entrance.

Shlomo Strogano, who was on vacation, was helping his wife at her store in Holon's Rehov Hahistadrut yesterday morning. At about noon his wife told him that a suspicious-looking stranger was wandering along the street.

Strogano began following the stranger and saw him approach a little girl from behind. The man put his hands on the girl's neck and pushed her into the entrance of an apartment building.

Strogano ran towards the place and found the man pulling off the girl's trousers. The girl was weeping. The man tried to run away, but Strogano caught him and dragged him to a nearby police station.

Police said the suspect, 24, is known to them and was suspected in the past of sexual assault. Police are investigating whether he was involved in any of the sexual crimes reported in the Holon and Bat Yam areas.

District Commander Nitzav Avraham Turgeman commended Strogano and his wife on their alertness and said the police would give them an award.

REAGAN ON MARINES

(Continued from Page One)

the munitions and negotiate with them to let them know that if they'll stop shooting at us, there won't be any problems between us."

When asked whether the Iranian government of the Ayatollah Khomeini was responsible for the terrorist incidents, Reagan said that the "best evidence that we have — you couldn't go into court and say that Khomeini ordered this. But what we do know is that a group that has been taking credit for these attacks and has claimed that they are responsible for many of them, is a group that seems to be of some size, that is definitely with an Iranian connection. Now, whether that is with the government or that they just are Iranians and they seem to be — well, they voice things that would indicate that they're in a kind of a holy war. They are a sect in the Islamic world."

In connection with the situation in Lebanon, Reagan insisted that the U.S. was making "more progress than appears on the surface."

He restated America's longstanding objectives, including the withdrawal of foreign forces and "the reestablishment of the government of Lebanon and helping them, as we have, to train and raise a force in which they can assume control over their own territory."

The Lebanese still wait the Multinational Force to remain, "to be able to do some maintaining of order as they would then have to move out toward their borders once the foreign forces have gone. Now, this is still the goal, it is still the thing we are trying to do."

He spoke of progress at the Geneva talks last month, insisting that the opposing Lebanese factions "recognized the Jemayel government, and agreed upon that government."

The other members of the Multinational Force, Reagan said, had also reaffirmed in recent days "their determination that the mission is sound and that we're all going to stay there."

The president reacted angrily when asked to comment on reports that he was planning to remove the marines by the presidential nominating conventions next summer.

"I've seen those reports quoting unnamed sources again," Reagan said. "Well, here's a named source. And I will tell you now: no decision of this kind — is related to the election or the conventions of anything political."

"As a matter of fact, on all major issues, I have reiterated more than once to our cabinet that I don't want to hear the political ramifications of any major issue. And on this one, there is no harder job — or part of this job — than putting our forces... someplace where these young men and women could be endangered. And certainly what we do in that regard is not based on any political considerations."

Man jailed for taking drivers' tests for others

HAIFA (Itim). — A man who conspired with officials in the Transport Ministry's licensing department to take driving licence tests for others was yesterday sentenced by the district court here to six months in prison and a fine of IS50,000.

The man, Foad Ben Salim Hibi, 24, was convicted of taking tests for 15 people after presenting himself at various testing stations carrying their identity cards.

The ministry officials with whom he conspired are also to be tried.

Most dayanim candidates did not pass bagrut exams

By ASHER WALLFISH
Post Knesset Correspondent

Two thirds of the rabbis who take the exams for appointment as dayanim (religious court judges) have not passed their bagrut (matriulation) examination, the director of rabbinical courts at the Religious Affairs Ministry, Rabbi Simha Meron, said yesterday.

Meron spoke at a meeting of a sub-committee of the Knesset State Control Committee that supervises inspection of secular and religious courts. He and Rabbi Moshe Solomon, ministry director-general, agreed that dayanim who lack basic knowledge in laws, jurisprudence and administrative procedure should take special courses. Meron said he was studying the proposal that a dayan sit on the bench for a trial period before receiving a permanent appointment.

The missing dayanim may be appointed after next week's meeting of the statutory dayanim appointments committee, which has to fill 22 posts on the religious-court benches. Solomon told the sub-committee.

Shulamit Aloni (Alignment-Citizens Rights Movement) said that dayanim whose awareness of social realities is tenuous should not be allowed to hold the fate of people in their hands.

Tamar Eshel (Alignment-Labour) said that when rabbinical courts sit, as they often do, with one or two dayanim on the bench instead of the required three, they leave the door open for appeals against their judgments as legally invalid. She quoted Supreme Court Justice Aharon Barak as warning that the judgments of a rabbinical court that sit without its full complement are in doubt.

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Israel joins Mediterranean pollution body

By AARON SITTNER
Jerusalem Post Reporter

Israel recently joined the Mediterranean Sea Anti-Pollution Treaty Organization, the last country in the region to do so.

With the Interior Ministry's Environmental Protection Service as its agent, the government has ratified the treaty, thus adding Israel's name to the organization's "Barcelona Convention."

The treaty organization's official protocol lays down a series of stiff rules barring or limiting the dumping of chemicals, sewage and scrap metal junk into the Mediterranean.

In accordance with the Knesset's recently enacted Ocean Pollution Prevention Law, anybody in Israel violating the protocol is liable to a year's imprisonment or a fine of IS2 million.

Among the substances that may not be thrown into the Mediterranean from the Israeli shore — or from ships or aircraft in its territorial waters or air space — beginning January 1 are the following:

- Mercury and cadmium, or their compounds.
- Non-degradable plastics or other synthetic matter that could disturb fish breeding or navigation.
- Crude oil and other carbons originating from sub-surface oil sources.
- Radioactive substances.
- Strong acid compounds.
- All substances or materials — in any form — connected with the manufacture of chemical or biological warfare materials.

Haifa English Theatre

The Haifa English theatre opens its second season tonight with a performance of *You Can't Take It With You* by George Kaufman and Moss Hart at the Haifa Museum Auditorium.

The show, directed by Harvey Brown, features Ralph Buchinder, Valerie Herberth and Laurie Rubin. Set by Richard Asaro.

Other performances are scheduled for Saturday, next Tuesday and next Thursday at 8.30 p.m., with a matinee next Thursday at 5 p.m.

The Fund for Strengthening Israel's Defence

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THE JERUSALEM POST

INVITATION

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* Only two places left for the tour departing on January 10, 1984.

Walesa harassed by police as Solidarity sets protests

WARSAW (Reuters). — Nobel Peace Prize laureate Lech Walesa has been harassed and summoned by police over the last 24 hours in advance of demonstrations called across Poland by the banned Solidarity trade union that he leads, aides said yesterday.

Walesa was confined to bed with flu and unable to answer a summons for questioning by the Internal Security Services in the Baltic port of Gdansk where he lives.

His religious adviser, Father Henryk Jankowski, said the union leader fell ill Tuesday after being constantly stopped at roadblocks in sub-zero temperatures and briefly detained by police during a drive to Gdansk from the southern city of Czestochowa.

Underground spokesmen for the union have called for peaceful demonstrations in towns all over Poland on Friday to mark the 13th anniversary of the killing of dozens

of workers by police in food riots in Gdansk in 1970.

Walesa has not officially endorsed the appeal, but said he would lay a wreath and deliver a speech at a monument to the dead workers built by Solidarity outside the Lenin Shipyard in Gdansk.

The authorities determined that his Nobel award will not change his status as an ordinary citizen, said last week that he will be prevented from speaking, as he was at the

same anniversary last year.

Walesa indicated at the weekend that he might not try to force the issue by making the speech in person, but would make sure that it is available to reporters. "The contents are more important than the way they are delivered," he said.

Walesa's wife, Danuta, said he had been given six days sick leave from his job as an electrician at the Lenin Shipyard and would in any case still be ill in bed on Friday.

3,765 centenarians counted in China

PEKING (Reuters). — China has 3,765 centenarians among its one billion population, of whom the oldest is a man aged 130, the National Census Office said yesterday.

It said 36 Chinese are aged between 120 and 130, and named the oldest of them as Kurhan Yasheng, a member of a Turkic minority in the vast Xinjiang region of Central Asia.

The report said that most of the centenarians ate a diet consisting mainly of cereals, fruit and vegetables, led regular lives, were cheerful and even-tempered, and were respected by their families and society, it said.

The figures are based on a national census held in June, 1982, the biggest in history. Analysis of the data is expected to take several years.

8 die in truck ambush by Philippine Muslims

MANILA (AP). — Gunmen believed to be Muslim separatist rebels ambushed an army truck on Mindanao Island, killing six soldiers and two civilians, including a two-year-old boy, the Philippine News Agency reported yesterday.

PNA said four other occupants of the truck — two soldiers and two civilians — were wounded in the attack on Tuesday night in Ramin Municipality of Lanao del Sur Province, 800 kilometres southeast of Manila. One of those wounded was the father of the boy who was killed, the report said.

Suicide honours leader, N. Korean agents told

SEOUL (Reuters). — North Korea is training its agents to kill themselves if their subversive missions into South Korea fail, two northerners captured off the South Korean coast said yesterday.

Chun Chung Nam, 26, and Li Sang Kyu, 22, both identified as members of an intelligence department of Pyongyang's ruling Workers' Party, told reporters here they had been taught that such a sacrifice would honour North Korean President Kim Il Sung.

American executed for murdering guard

ANGOLA, Louisiana (Reuters). — A 31-year-old man was executed in Louisiana State Penitentiary early yesterday for murdering a supermarket guard during a 1979 robbery, a prison spokeswoman said.

The man, Robert Williams, was the 10th person sent to the electric chair in the U.S. since the Supreme Court reinstated the death penalty in 1976.

Brandt, 69, marries 37-year-old companion

BONN (Reuters). — Former Federal German Chancellor Willy Brandt, who leads the opposition Social Democratic Party, has married his 37-year-old companion, Brigitte Seebacher, it was disclosed yesterday.

It was the third marriage for Brandt, who will be 70 next week. His first two marriages ended in divorce.

U.S. mission to UN gets new protection

UNITED NATIONS (Reuters). — Workmen have installed concrete blocks in front of the two entrances of the U.S. mission to the UN as an anti-terrorist precaution.

The blocks, about six metres wide, about one metre high and weighing about 6,350 kilograms are intended to prevent explosives-laden vehicles from being driven into the mission, opposite the UN headquarters.

Jane's: Soviet plane can airlift 'N' missiles

LONDON (Reuters). — The Soviet Union has developed a giant military transport plane that can airlift SS-20 nuclear missiles, Jane's All the World's Aircraft 1983-84 said yesterday.

The prototype four-engine Antonov-400 plane, code-named Condor by NATO, is the largest aircraft flying in the world today, according to Jane's.

The book said the Antonov-400 can carry tanks or 200 fully equipped troops and can just as easily airlift SS-20 medium-range missiles and their mobile launch vehicles quickly to eastern Europe or even to an island like Grenada.

The Soviet Union has SS-20 medium-range missiles based in Asia apart from those targeted on western Europe.

Jane's said the new plane, likely to go into service in the mid- or late 1980s, has a 74 metre wing span, a range of 4,600 kilometres and is 5 per cent bigger than the U.S. C-5.

However, it is not the biggest plane ever to fly. American billionaire Howard Hughes built a wooden flying boat called the "Spruce Goose" with a wing span of 98 metres that made one brief flight in 1947.

The condor is one of a new generation of Soviet military aircraft detailed in the 74th edition of Jane's.

Another is the "black jack" intercontinental strategic bomber, described as much bigger and faster than the new B-1 bomber that will equip the U.S. Air Force later this decade.

There are also new fighters and strike planes like the MiG-31 Foxhound, which Jane's says represents a major advance over the MiG-25 Foxbat now in service, and the MiG-29 Fulcrum, likely to have a dual fighter and ground attack role.

Jane's said three new fighters a day are rolling off Soviet assembly lines, far surpassing NATO production.

It also said the Soviet Union will soon have fighter-helicopters — "small and nimble single or two seaters designed to clear the sky of low and slow NATO aircraft of all types in the path of a Warsaw Pact offensive."

Jane's said aircraft-makers are looking at the possibilities of flying a plane by light fibre optics instead of wire controls.

'S. Korean crew unaware of Soviet jets'

MONTREAL (Reuters). — International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) investigators said yesterday a South Korean airliner crew did not realize Soviet fighters were trying to intercept their plane before it was shot down last September.

"In the absence of any indication that the flight crew... was aware of the two interception attempts, it was concluded that they were not," said a summary of the investigators' report.

The report, submitted to the ICAO council, rejected the Soviet Union's contention that the plane was on a spy mission. The Boeing 747 was shot down over the Soviet

far east with the loss of all 269 people on board.

An ICAO spokesman said investigators attributed the airliner's departure from its proper course either to an incorrect heading entered into its navigation system or to insertion of erroneous coordinates when the plane left Anchorage, Alaska, on its way to Japan.

The ICAO's 33-member council is scheduled to meet in late January to consider adoption of the investigators' report.

After yesterday's council meeting, U.S. federal aviation administration commissioner J. Lynn Helms said the investigators found

that voice tapes from Japanese air-traffic controllers showed the South Korean pilot was unaware that he was being intercepted.

"The Soviet Union did not follow adequate procedures in identifying the aircraft," Helms said. He added that the report also established that Moscow did not fully cooperate with the investigation.

The ICAO investigation took a team of five experts to Japan, South Korea and the U.S., while ICAO Secretary-General Yves Lambert visited Moscow during the course of the investigation.

The Soviet Union has conducted its own inquiry but has not released any details of it.

'Dissident' Soviet announcer reinstated at Radio Moscow

MOSCOW (Reuters). — A Radio Moscow announcer who praised Afghans for fighting against "Soviet invaders," has been reinstated at the station, a spokesman said yesterday.

He told Reuters that Vladimir Danchev, who was dismissed and sent to a psychiatric clinic after his "dissident" broadcasts last May, has been given a new post at the English-language Radio Moscow World Service.

In a series of news bulletins in a two-week period on the world service, Danchev switched around the normal Soviet jargon for the Afghan conflict and branded Russian troops as aggressors.

In one broadcast he said the

Afghan population was "playing an increasing role in defending the country's territory against Soviet occupants." In another he praised tribes in two provinces for their "struggle against the Soviet invaders."

The broadcasts marked the first time a state radio announcer had been known to deviate from the carefully scripted news broadcasts, which invariably present Soviet activities at home and abroad in a favourable light.

The Radio Moscow spokesman did not say what post Danchev now occupies but informed sources said he is restricted to editorial work and not permitted near a microphone.

Pope may meet his would-be assassin

VATICAN CITY (AP). — Pope John Paul II will meet with his would-be assassin in December 27 when the pontiff pays a Christmas-time visit to a Rome prison, the Italian news agency Ansa reported yesterday.

Quoting unidentified Vatican sources, the report said Vatican and Italian officials were working on the final details of the papal trip to Rebibbia Prison in Rome's eastern outskirts where Turkish terrorist Mehmet Ali Agca is serving a life sentence for shooting the pope in an assassination attempt in St. Peter's Square on May 13, 1981.

The Vatican spokesman refused to confirm or deny the report. "I cannot confirm what has not been decided officially," he said. Last week when the report of a papal meeting with Agca first surfaced, the spokesman said he did not know of any such encounter being planned.

Mauritania supports North African union

ALGIERS (AP). — Efforts to establish a union of North African states yesterday received a boost, when Mauritania agreed to adhere to a good-neighbour treaty signed nine months ago by Algeria and Tunisia.

The agreement came during a visit of Mauritanian President Ould Haidallah, who received a warm welcome from Algerian President Chadli Benjedid when he arrived Monday night.

Turkish president okays civilian cabinet

ANKARA (Reuters). — President Kenan Evren yesterday ratified prime minister-designate Turgut Ozal's list of ministers for Turkey's first civilian cabinet since the 1980 military coup, officials said.

Ozal, leader of the conservative Motherland Party, presented his cabinet list on Monday to Evren, who unexpectedly delayed ratification until yesterday morning to study the list carefully.

Even, who asked Ozal last week to form a government, said Ozal's list was approved without changes.



A U.S. Army sergeant yesterday carries a Christmas tree made of camouflage netting along the perimeter of the Marine compound in Beirut. (UPI telephoto)

Reagan second-term decision to be announced on Jan. 29

WASHINGTON (Reuters). — President Reagan, will announce whether he will seek re-election in a speech from the White House on January 29, spokesman Larry Speakes said yesterday.

Although presidential advisers insist Reagan has not promised outright that he will seek a second four-year term in 1984, Speakes said, "I would be willing to put big money" on bets that the president will declare his candidacy.

"He will make a speech in the Oval Office on January 29, at which time he will announce a decision," Speakes said.

Reagan authorised an official re-election committee last October, a step that made him a candidate in the eyes of the law even though he

insisted he was reserving his decision.

Republican Senator Paul Laxalt of Nevada, who heads the re-election group, said that if Reagan announced he was not running "it would be the greatest ootional political shock of all time, at least to the Republican party."

Reagan, the oldest serving president, will be 73 on February 6. His doctor says he is fit, and White House officials say he is well able to handle an arduous campaign.

He will make his speech four days after delivering to Congress his annual State of the Union message, which will outline his legislative goals for 1984 and could serve as a manifesto for his first personal re-election appeal to the public.

Kissinger: U.S. should shun wars involving 'local forces'

MEXICO CITY (AP). — Former U.S. secretary of state Henry Kissinger said Tuesday the U.S. should not get involved in regional conflicts that involve "local forces with local means."

Kissinger made the comment at a news conference after talks with Mexican President Miguel de la Madrid during a one-day visit here with his bi-partisan commission on Central America. He said his talks with De la Madrid were "lucid and comprehensive."

Kissinger, heading a fact-finding mission by the commission here, said the U.S. should not oppose uprisings in the area that are brought on by internal problems and are led by local groups.

"Upheavals caused by indigenous conditions and conducted by local forces with local means should not

be a concern of the United States," Kissinger said. He did not elaborate on which central American country, if any, he considers involved in purely local disputes.

The Reagan administration blames strife in the region on Soviet- and Cuban-backed insurgency. It blames Nicaragua's Sandinista government for supporting and sending weapons to leftist guerrillas in El Salvador. But it also supports Nicaraguan rebels fighting the Sandinistas.

Kissinger said there was concern about "elements of outside intervention."

"If we can reduce the Central American problem to Central American dimensions, and it can be worked out by the people concerned in their own way, there will be peace in the area," he said.

Police shut London Bridge in false alarm over car-bomb

LONDON (AP). — Police closed London Bridge in a false alarm over a suspected car-bomb yesterday amid concern over an expected Christmas terror blitz by the Irish Republican Army.

On Tuesday, police detonated a 4.5 kilogram bomb on Kensington High Street after hundreds of shoppers were evacuated. Police said that Irish terrorists also may have been using dummy bomb packages to create confusion.

A spokeswoman for Scotland Yard said two canvas car-alls found in the fashionable shopping street and also detonated for fear they contained bombs were similar to the one that contained the bomb. A third suspect parcel also turned out to be harmless.

London police commissioner Sir Kenneth Newman appealed to Londoners to "please be our eyes and ears" in an anti-bombing campaign.

"Be curious," he said in a statement. "Is something unusual happening? Has something unusual stopped happening? A strange car? People acting strangely? Lodgers coming and going at odd hours?"

Newman said the police will also be doing their part with "extra men, extra dogs, longer hours, extra patrols — hard work but worth it."

Yesterday morning, commuters driving into London from south of the Thames river were delayed when police blocked the bridge entrances to investigate a vehicle parked on the span.

"It was one of dozens of false alarms this morning," the police spokeswoman said.

Bolivian unions say strike is success

LA PAZ (Reuters). — Bolivia's powerful Communist-led trade unions have hailed as a victory a 48-hour general strike which has virtually paralyzed the country.

The stoppage, the second in three weeks, was called by the Workers' Central (COB) to press major wage demands. The COB said the strike was observed "with discipline" throughout the country during its first 24 hours on Tuesday.

COB leader Juan Lechin Tuesday night blamed the left-wing government of President Hernan Siles Zuazo for deterioration of the social climate and accused it of being insensitive.

Unions want the government to raise the minimum monthly wage from \$62 to \$240 to offset sharp increases ordered last month in a tough austerity package that included a 60 per cent devaluation.

The strike is the first of 10 spot invited top overseas reporters to arrive here for the annual Galilee run next Wednesday, the 1st American edition of the annual Galilee run.

The meet is sponsored by Ma'anir and Leumi, together with Tel Aviv's Hahinukh Avia, Le Coq Sportif and the Theresia Hahinukh.

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Sports

All set for a great game

By DON GOULD

Post Basketball Reporter: TEL AVIV. — Maccabi Tel Aviv basketball team are all set and ready for tonight's European Cup game against a solid but inexperienced Limoges of France.

The home team hope to point guard Motti Aroesti back action, although he is recuperating from a bad bout of flu. The decision as to who he will play at all, or how much he will play, will only be made tonight. It is probable that reserve Kadmon will have a busy night. Despite the Aroesti problem, Maccabi are full of confidence.

Limoges will not try to go against Maccabi. Limoges' Pierre Dao told me. Instead team will try to stick to a set pattern. They very seldom use zone defence, and are not at all employ a press.

Veteran Limoges centre G. Brostherous told me that Maccabi guards will be in for a long evening trying to stop his team-mate Murphy, who Brostherous says is "the best shooting guard in Europe."

The Limoges team, with their main heights, is as follows: (4) Didier Rose, 1.98; (5) Michel Sengul, 1.94; (6) Jean O. 1.98; (7) Richard Dancoury, 1.95; (8) Murphy, 1.95; (9) Apollo Faye, 2.00; (10) Douglas, 2.08; (11) George Brown, 2.06; (12) (13) (14) (15) French Budy, 2.09.

The game starts at 8.30 p.m. will be telecast live.

Dissatisfied India

Post Sports Staff

An Indian crowd of 70,000 wild with rage as the national cricket team were ignominiously thrashed by the West Indies on the fourth day of the fifth cricket in Calcutta yesterday. The cricket when India were in for 90 in their second inning lost by an innings and 46 runs. 1 tomatoes and stones were hurled at the players, and also at "Man in match" West Indian skipper Lloyd, who played one of the greatest innings of his distinguished career, when he scored 161 not out and stopped a West Indian run they bailed.

Another victim of the vegetable range the wife of Sushil Ganeskar, one of the greatest batsmen of all time. Police charge the crowd with drunkenness. The players' bus was stoned and a huge crowd gathered outside their hotel. It is ironic that only five months ago Indian team were given an ecstatic welcome after their triumph in the 1983 Prudential World Cup limited over competition in England.

The third cricket Test in Adelaide between Australia and Pakistan ended in a draw, stage 4 looked on as a Pakistan night. Australia, 159 behind on the first day, 228 for 5. But captain Kim Hughes' team with a few innings of 100 that took it to 318 for 7, and the game was declared 30 minutes early.

That's incredible

The Detroit Pistons beat Denver Nuggets 186-184 in a 3-hour, 11-minute overtime, 3-hour, 11-minute marathon on Tuesday night the several National Basketball Association records, including most points scored by two teams in a single game.

"Not only have I never remotely been in any game like but I've never seen or heard anything like this," Pistons' Chuck Daly said. "This will go down as a game I won't forget."

In other games, it was Portland 102, 89; New Jersey 133, Golden State 122; Phoenix 110, Chicago 96, Milwaukee 107, Cleveland 105; Atlanta 100, Los Angeles 97; and Boston 114, New York 100. The previous two-team scoring record was set by San Antonio and Milwaukee 171-160 in a triple-overtime contest on Jan. 1982. The previous scoring record for one team was 173 by Boston on February 11, 1959. Boston Celtics in a regular season game.

The 93 assists logged by Detroit and I broke the previous record by four and it field goals were six more than in any other in history. (AP)

Basking Fin

By JACK LEON

Post Sports Reporter

TEL AVIV. — After leaving home in Finland on Tuesday temperature of 20 degrees tigrade, Moscow Olympics 10-metre silver medalist Kau Maaninker yesterday started his climatization training here for the week's seventh Sea of Galilee national Marathon with the curly no less than 40 degrees by in Israel's Indian summer. Maaninker is relishing the change.

Twenty-nine year-old Maaninker's previous marathon outing was back in when he covered the 42.195-km distance in 2 hours, 19 minutes, 27 seconds. The Finnish star said yesterday that he was concentrating on his training in the 100m, in the hope of being able to compete in these events at next summer's Los Angeles Olympics.

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GRAY'S 1983 BUSINESSMAN'S SQUASH LEAGUE

RESULTS

Dissenhaus Travel	5	Avi Marble Coverings	7
Taste of Travel	7	Barak Sportswear	5
Burger Ranch	9	Sabra-Sengrams	3
South African Airways	9	Anglo-Saxon	3
Dunlop-Azar & Sons	—	—	—

STANDINGS

Burger Ranch	33	Sabra-Sengrams	10
South African Airways	31	Anglo-Saxon	15
Dissenhaus Travel	22	Barak Sportswear	15
Dunlop — Azar & Sons	22	Avi Marble Coverings	15
Taste of Travel	22	—	—

Spectators welcome — Saturday, 2.30 p.m., Kfar Hamaachah Squash Centre

Bridging the gap

Michelle Mazel spent more than three years in Egypt, where her husband served as a member of the Israeli diplomatic corps. In a series for the 'Today' page, starting here, Mazel provides an inside look at everyday Egyptian life-style. Drawing by Eliahu Eilon.



other things. Anyway she was playing duplicate bridge that morning and someone's partner was sick. Would I care to fill in? I said sure, why not!

So there I was, playing bridge at the house of a woman I did not know. Since duplicate bridge is serious business we played on for two hours and then broke off for tea.

I looked around. The others were mainly Egyptian, young and middle-aged, perfectly made up, with elaborate hair-dos and masses of glittering jewelry. There were a few European women too. Incidentally we were playing in English, with occasional lapses into French. Though French is fast losing ground in Egypt today, many educated women still know it, probably because they went to convent school.

My acquaintance from the grocery store was at the other end of the room. Next to me two elegantly dressed ladies were busy discussing in English their children, grandchildren and sundry lo-laws.

It transpired that one of the ladies was from Damascus. She was visiting her daughter, married to an Egyptian doctor. Well, I'd never seen a lady from Damascus before. I must have started because she suddenly turned to me and asked smilingly where I was from.

Here we go, I said to myself. End of a great bridge game. "Israel," I replied.

That gave her pause. Not for long. "I mean what country, not what religion?"

I explained that I was both Jewish and Israeli.

At that point several other ladies were listening. The Syrian lady wasn't satisfied.

"On what passport are you in Egypt, then?" she asked. "Israeli," I answered.

SHE LOOKED at me unbelievably and then said "Isn't that dangerous?"

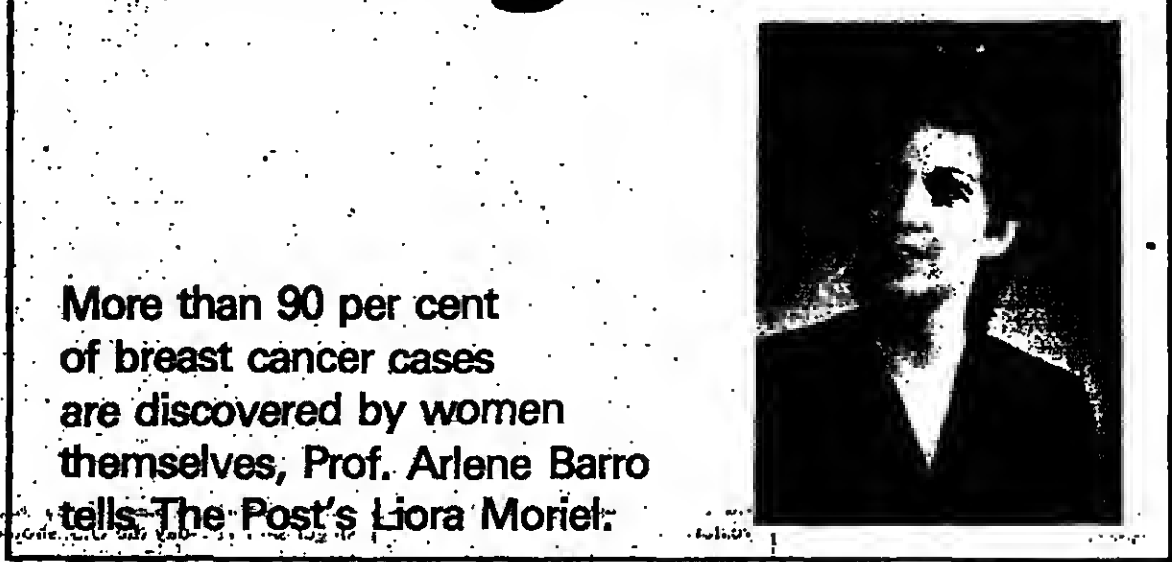
Now that was in August 1980, almost two years after Camp David, 18 months after the peace treaty and six months after the grand opening of the Israeli Embassy in Cairo. I told the Syrian lady about it. She was amazed. So were some of the Egyptian ladies. They started asking questions, and eventually the hostess had to call us back to business.

At no point had I sensed hostility. This was to happen many times during the three years I spent in Egypt. People would be puzzled, sometimes briefly ill at ease, but the awkward moment would pass and then, more often than not, they would start asking questions. What the average Egyptian doesn't know about Israel would fill several volumes.

Some of these questions were not easy to answer. Like the amiable fat lady at a (private) party: "But tell me, this Palestine everybody is talking about, where is it exactly?" (I am ashamed to say I mumbled something indistinct and edged away).

Those three years in Egypt opened a new world to me. I got to know our next-door neighbours the Egyptians a little better. It wasn't always easy, but believe me, it was never dull!

Taking control



More than 90 per cent of breast cancer cases are discovered by women themselves, Prof. Arlene Barro tells The Post's Liora Moriel.

greatest single measure known which could reduce the number of deaths attributable to cancer. The impact is significant: The reduction of the incidence of lung cancer — which by middle age is more than 10 times greater in regular cigarette smokers than in lifelong non-smokers — and a reduction in the incidence of cancer of the mouth, pharynx, larynx, esophagus, bladder, probably the pancreas and perhaps the kidney.

The role of vitamins in preventing cancer is becoming increasingly important. "The National Cancer Institute (NCI) is now sponsoring a number of projects to determine the relationship between vitamins and the inhibition of cancer formation. Moreover, it is of interest that vitamins have been used in the U.S. in smoking cessation programmes, because they have a calming effect. Given that Israel is a 'stressed' society, people may need specific vitamins that have been shown to reduce body stress, such as some of the B vitamins."

Once any form of cancer is detected, it must be dealt with speedily, according to Barro. "Cancer attacks different sites in different ways, and the etiology is not necessarily the same for each type of cancer. So, the cancer must be thought of as many types of cancer, each related to a specific organ. In other words, cancer is a site-specific disease — it manifests itself differently in different sites."

One thing is common to all types of cancer: early detection usually means better chances for survival. Although the extent of the spread of the cancer depends, in part, on the specific site involved, nevertheless, "The idea is to detect cancer early and to prevent it from spreading."

Barro's own parents both died of cancer. "My mother died of cancer when I was seven; my father died six years ago, also of cancer," she says. "That's why I am personally committed."

As vice-dean at the State University of New York at Stony Brook, Barro headed the Office of Educational Evaluation at the School of Medicine. She subsequently spent four years at the National Cancer Institute (NCI) where she was in charge of a \$40 million education programme.

One of the fruits of her efforts at the NCI is that 12 institutions training medical students and professionals in the field of health have developed, field-tested and evaluated courses in disease prevention, focusing on cancer. She has also contributed articles to major medical journals.

Pre-retirement preparation

Leah Abramowitz investigates programmes for people who are soon to become pensioners.

of her ailing husband exclusively. She enjoys the social aspect of working in the hospital and simply can't imagine leaving," Meijer explains. By denying the fact that pre-retirement programmes might help her, Miriam is trying to run away from reality.

There are, however, many older employees willing and eager to prepare for retirement. Several types of programmes have evolved in the 112 years since the Histadrut of Haifa — with a grant from the University of Haifa — organized the first lectures on pre-retirement for workers in five factories.

Some employers offer weekly informative lectures on health, legal rights, financial counselling and the use of leisure time. Other programmes focus on the psychological aspects of retirement and combine formal talks with group discussions among no more than 15 participants. These sessions are conducted by a trained leader who stimulates group members' self-expression and active participation.

Whereas spouses are sometimes welcome at lectures, they are excluded during the more intimate group discussions so that no one will be inhibited from expressing his or her innermost fears.

"Doubts about their self-value as a pensioner are expressed at these sessions," says Yehudit King. "Unrealistic fears about old age are also raised like, 'Will I become senile?' or 'How can I avoid becoming a burden on my children?'"

Hearing others express these thoughts helps group members open up and come to terms with their common situation. King believes that people with similar backgrounds and equal status should be grouped together. "The director of a department would not feel comfortable speaking freely if

We suggest individual interviews where the employee is encouraged to talk about his expectations, problems and family situation with a welfare worker who will know which kind of programme is required for his firm, and how best to attract participation."

"I got a lot out of our pre-retirement programme," says Baruch K., who worked in a municipal water department for 30 years. "I found out how to invest my pension fund, how much part-time employment I'm allowed without losing my Bituah Leumi payments, and how to stay healthy." "It was important also to see I wasn't the only one who felt nervous," Baruch mentions of other meo during the programme who formed a kind of social club after it was over. They joined an exercise class together and continue to meet at each other's houses.

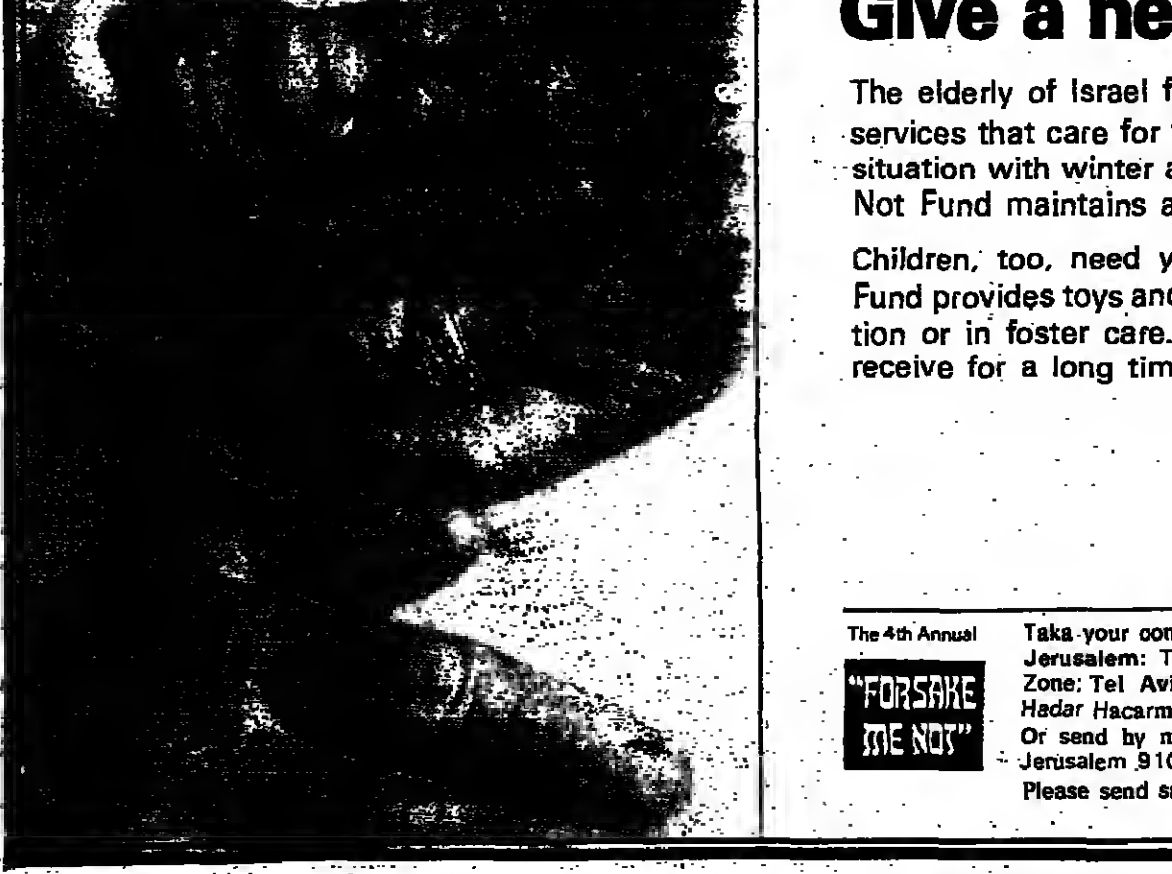
Meijer of Hadassah feels that pensioners who worked in the hospital and who do not participate in such programmes can still benefit from counselling at the hospital's club for retired workers. The club conducts weekly cultural activities at Hadassah, and many of the pensioners also volunteer in the wards, maintaining contact with each other and their place of employment.

King says she doesn't believe that such contact — or the need for association with one's former place of work — continues for an extended time after retirement. In her opinion, pensioners should join the existing senior citizen clubs available in each community. She is concerned that workers in small firms which cannot afford pre-retirement classes will lose out, and says "alternative sources for initiating programmes of this sort must be found." King sees community centres as potential sponsors. The enterprising social workers in a neighbourhood of older Yemenite immigrants in Ramat Gan organized a successful pre-retirement programme which later developed into a local club.

The University of Tel Aviv offered a course in pre-retirement preparation last year for a full semester, and Everyman's University is making plans for a correspondence course on the subject.

Local experts in the field agree that existing programmes should be properly evaluated and that follow-up sessions after retirement would be effective.

Saving money and minutes



Give a helping hand

The elderly of Israel feel the economic strain more than most. The services that care for them are beset by budgetary cuts, a worrying situation with winter approaching. The Jerusalem Post-Forsake Me Not Fund maintains and enlarges these services.

Children, too, need your contributions. The Jerusalem Post Toy Fund provides toys and games for every child in a government institution or in foster care. For many, these are the only gifts they will receive for a long time.

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Post Sports...
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If the patient is not aware...
Barro takes the example of breast...
The women are...
To alleviate the sudden trauma...
To alleviate the sudden trauma...
To alleviate the sudden trauma...

That's
RETIREMENT is a fact of life...
Some fear it, some look forward...
To alleviate the sudden trauma...
To alleviate the sudden trauma...
To alleviate the sudden trauma...

Basking
Usually the programmes are...
To alleviate the sudden trauma...
To alleviate the sudden trauma...
To alleviate the sudden trauma...

Exporters promised 15% profit margin

By MACABEE DEAN
Jerusalem Post Reporter

TEL AVIV. — Representatives of the Finance Ministry and the Manufacturers Association late Tuesday night reached an agreement on the country's export policy for 1984, which according to Minister Yigal Cohen-Orgad promises "a profit margin of 15 per cent."

This is the percentage which the exporters have been demanding. It prevailed in 1980, one of the country's better "export years." Since then, they claim that profitability has dropped to the present "zero" average, although some exporters are indeed making a small profit, while others are even losing

money but continuing to export in order not to lose their markets.

The plan is based on three main points: The first is that the exchange rate insurance scheme will be maintained and adjusted to changing conditions. This will provide the exporters with additional funds due to the lag in the devaluation of the shekel. It will also help them make a profit on shipping goods to those European countries whose currency has been falling in relation to the dollar.

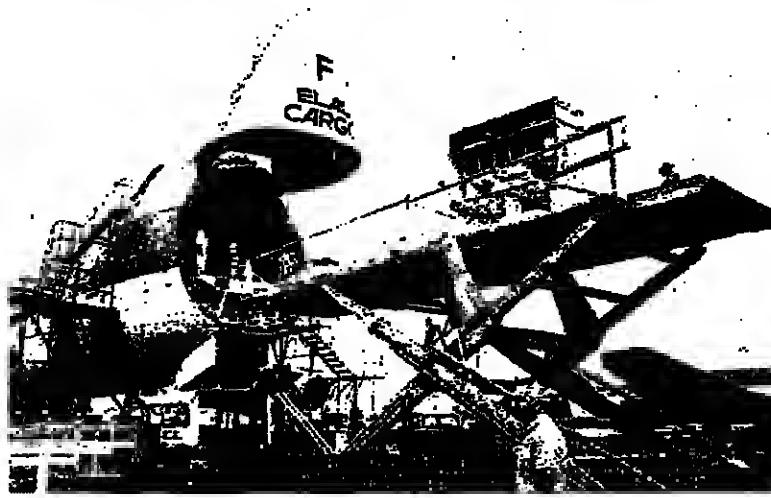
The second point is providing much better credit conditions for exporters.

The third point, although not part of the agreement, is that the system should be flexible and subject to

periodic review. It is believed that the first review will be held after the first quarter of 1984 (probably in mid-April), so that the effect of the plan can be studied.

Since the plan is based on the "effect of the first two points on reaching specific targets," this period review is considered very important.

After the meeting, which lasted six hours, several of the manufacturers noted that "the plan is not what we hoped for, but it is probably the best we could obtain." One noted that "it will probably stop the drop in exports, and perhaps even increase them a bit, but it is certainly not the basis for a huge upsurge."



El Al workers recently took only two and a half days to remove the seats from a passenger plane and transform it into a cargo carrier. The plane was immediately put to work carrying fruit to European pre-Christmas markets while the port workers' dispute keeps ships idle. (Y. Abov Katz)

Kibbutz makes novel fruit packaging

By LEA LEVAVI
Jerusalem Post Reporter

TEL AVIV. — An inexpensive plastic net packaging for fruits and vegetables was shown to reporters here yesterday by Kibbutz Mishmar Haemek Industries, which is trying to introduce this European product to the Israeli market.

Plant manager Hanan Tsur said this flexible plastic net does not "sweat" the way regular plastic bags do and that those fruits and vegetables which are sensitive to moisture are therefore better preserved.

Customers can also see through the net and know what they are buying. Thus there is less spoilage and better hygiene than when customers examine the merchandise by squeezing and handling it.

"Some supermarkets are reluc-

tant to buy our packaging because they think customers will not be happy unless they can handle the fruit," marketing manager Ya'akov Arava said. "The problem is that someone, and it's usually not the supermarket, has to pay for the spoilage which extensive handling causes."

The plastic net is knitted in long sleeves from which bags of various sizes (for anything from three avocados to five kilo of potatoes) can be cut. The firm sells the net sleeves, the device to make the bags and the necessary knowhow to supermarket chains and other stores.

The net packaging costs only 40 to 50 agorot per kilo of merchandise packaged, compared to about 60 agorot for standard plastic bags, Arava said.

Why exports dropped

The slowdown in the devaluation of the shekel during the years 1980 through most of 1983 was the primary cause of the fall of exports in these years, according to a survey just published by the Productivity Institute.

Other factors, in the order of their importance, was that there was increased demand by the local market due to the feeling of well-being within the country; and the fact that the markets abroad were depressed by recession. The costs of labour and production also rose during these years, making exports less competitive.

ASIAN LOAN — The Asian Development Bank has approved loans totalling \$99.5 million to Bangladesh and Nepal.

UK to freeze its oil prices

LONDON (Reuters). — The British National Oil Corporation (BNOC), in a move that will be welcomed in OPEC, yesterday proposed freezing North Sea oil prices for the first quarter of 1984.

The news that BNOC planned to resist much-rumoured pressure from oil companies for a price cut came in an official company statement.

The proposal, still to be accepted by BNOC's customers and suppliers, would mean North Sea prices staying linked for the time being to a \$30 a barrel benchmark, the official price of high-quality crude from Britain's offshore Brent field.

The Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries has appealed to non-member countries, including Britain, to help support world oil

prices. North Sea prices could still be under pressure, if customers decide to fight the company's proposals on the grounds that British crude is overpriced.

The industry has pointed to a price of around \$28.50 for Brent crude in the free spot market as an indication of the true value of British crude.

OPEC fears that a drop in the price of North Sea oil would prompt OPEC-member Nigeria, Britain's main competitor in the light crude market, to press for cuts in the exporter's price list.

This in turn could wreck OPEC's delicately balanced pricing and output structure, agreed to in London last March, and send world prices tumbling.

Dutch wage war on widespread tax evasion

AMSTERDAM (Reuters). — Dutch tax dodgers are costing the Netherlands billions of dollars in lost revenue and the government is out to stop them by using, among other measures, random checks on bank accounts.

Its goal is to get back at least part of the enormous sums of "black money" — the amounts not declared to the tax man — circulating in the economy.

Some economists put the value of economic activity hidden from the government at 20 to 30 per cent of Gross National Product. Showing traditional Dutch enthusiasm for individual enterprise, "black workers" range from pensioners doing jobs on the side to building companies fulfilling whole contracts without declaring them.

The problem in the Netherlands was dramatically highlighted this year by a banking scandal at Slavenburg's, a medium-sized Dutch bank now renamed Credit Lyonnais

Nederland, after the French bank which stepped in to rescue it in April.

Police raided the headquarters of the bank in February, following allegations that clients were allowed to open accounts under false names, one way of hiding money from the tax office.

Most of the former board have now been charged with allowing bank employees to commit fraud and several senior bank officials face fraud charges.

The government, anxious to protect the good name of Dutch business as well as boost its revenues, has revealed a range of measures to deal with non-payment of tax. These include recruiting many more tax inspectors and tightening tax rules.

Increasing its inspection of companies' books in recent months, the government found it netted on average an extra \$190,000 in corporate tax for each extra visit its of-

ficers made to firms, though only part of this involved fraud.

The black economy exists in many countries, but economists say it appears particularly widespread in the Netherlands. One reason, they say, are heavy taxes, with the average Dutch worker paying 35 per cent of his income to the state.

A further reason is the ease with which money deposited in banks could, until recently, be hidden from the tax office.

Until 1980, low to medium-income workers using a simplified tax form were asked only to declare their salary and interest income and not the extent of their bank holdings.

"A favourite way of hiding money is to buy interest-bearing savings certificates redeemable simply by 'the holder'." Last year the government told banks to register the names of people buying the certificates, but they do not have to show identification and there is lit-

tle to stop use of false names.

Since then the finance ministry has announced a controversial plan to check the bank accounts of 3,000 randomly selected Dutchmen to compare their interest income and the amount they eventually declared.

The check is expected to show that half fiddled their tax, revenue specialists said. The purpose is not to prosecute evaders but to help estimate the amount of black money in the economy and indicate ways of fighting fraud.

The government faces a hard battle against a practice so deeply rooted in the Dutch economy that the Central Bureau of Statistics puts the size of the black economy at five to 10 per cent of national income.

But Prof. Arnold Heerje, of Amsterdam University, told Reuters the 1983 Gross National Product of some \$122b. undervalued true activity by 20 to 30 per cent.

British drinking water to be sold to Mid-East

NEWCASTLE (Reuters). — A northeast England water authority said yesterday that it plans to sell drinking water to the Middle East.

Gulf states, where seawater for desalination has been polluted by oil spills, during the Iran-Iraq war, will be a major market, a spokesman for the Northumbria Water Authority said.

An £80,000 (\$122,000) pipeline has been built to pump the water from a reservoir in hills near the Scottish border to tankers in a deep berth dock.

The authority said it was not ready to name its potential customers, but hopes to sign its first export contracts early next year at a price of one pound sterling per 1,000 gallons (about one dollar for 3,000 litres).

WHAT'S ON

Notices in the feature are charged at £339 per line including VAT; insertion every day costs £565 including VAT, per month. Copy accepted at offices of The Jerusalem Post and all recognized advertising agents.

JERUSALEM MUSEUMS
Israel Museum, Exhibitions: Ori Reisman, Paintings; Gali Klammer, Paintings; Tom Seidmann, Sculpture; Illustrations of children's books; Scenic, creating home theatre sets and traditional costumes; Memphis Millers, furniture and accessories; Michael Draks, photographic situations; David Romberg in Palestine; Moritz Oppenheim, first Jewish painter; Tip of the iceberg No. 2; Permanent Collection of Judaica, Art, Archaeology and Contemporary Israeli Art; Rockefeller Museum; Kadish, Barnea, Judean Kingdom fortress; How to Study the Past (for children, Paley Centre, Closed Saturdays).
Visiting Hours: Main Museum 10-5, 11; Guided tour in English, 3:30; Children's film, "Heidi"; Tomorrow: Main Museum 10-2, At 11: Guided tour of Rockefeller Museum in English.
CONDUCTED TOURS
HADASSAH — Guided tour of all installations • Hourly tours at Kiryat Hadassah and Hadassah Mt. Scopus • Information, reservations 02-46333, 02-426271.
Hebrew University:
1. Tours in English at 9 and 11 a.m. from Administration Building, Giv'at Ram Campus, Buses 9 and 28.
2. Morning Scopus tours 11 a.m. from the Bronfman Reception Centre, Sherman Building, Buses 9 and 28 to last stop. Further details: Tel. 02-582819.
American Mizrah Women, Free Morning Tours — 8 Alkalat Street, Jerusalem. Tel. 02-69922.
Tel Aviv
MUSEUMS
Tel Aviv Museum, Exhibitions: Pine Collection, Chinese and Japanese Paintings and Prints; Fritz Koenig, Sculpture; Shlomo Jaffe, Poem on a Jewish Wedding; Kaniak, Hassidic Rhapsody; Works by Bernstein, Khachaturian and Tchaikovsky.
15.00 The History of Music
15.30 Youth Program: Symphony No. 4.
16.30 Arish Vardi, piano — Dahl: Dream Pieces; Bach: From the Little Preludes and the Notebook for Anna Magdalena.
8 a.m.: Schubert: 2 Pieces; Ravel: Symphonies No. 2, 4; 10 a.m.: Premiere Performance of New Work; Debussy: Children's Corner.
10.00 Music Magazine
10.05 Famous Artists in Historical Performances [reprint]
20.00 Concert Preview
20.25 The Jerusalem Symphony Orchestra

Tourism Ministry denies snubbing scheduled airlines

By MICHAEL YUDELMAN
Jerusalem Post Reporter

TEL AVIV. — The Tourism Ministry yesterday branded statements by the panel of scheduled airlines that the ministry was ignoring them as groundless. "The Tourism Ministry is investing hundreds of thousands of dollars this year together with the airlines in promoting Israel," an official ministry statement said.

The statement was a comment on reports yesterday in which the airlines accused the ministry of snubbing their offers to help promote Israel as a tourism destination, while encouraging charter flight companies.

The statement reveals that contracts regarding promotion were signed this year between the ministry and the headquarters of TWA, Air France and subsidiary companies of British Airways, KLM and others.

The Jerusalem Post has learned that many representatives of foreign airlines in Israel are not aware of these contracts between the Tourism Ministry and their own headquarters abroad.

The Tourism Ministry also denies excluding the airline representatives from tourism promotion events here.

In another matter, the High Court of Justice on Tuesday issued an order nisi to the Transport Minister, the head of the Civil Aviation Board and the panel scheduled airlines, to show cause within 30 days why they should implement new payment regulations issued by the International Transport Association. The appeal was made by the Travel Age Association.

The travel agents complain about the airlines' decision that payment to them must be made according to the dollar rate on the day of payment. Until recently, agents accepted these payments according to the representative dollar rate prevailing on the first of the month.

TWA has announced that it continues to abide by the existing arrangement, which is favourable to the agents, and not charge them the differential in the dollar rate between the first of the month and the day of payment.

Haifa's Nof hotel sold

HAIFA. — The four-star Nof hotel on Mt. Carmel, which was built ten years ago, has been sold to a Swiss firm by its owner, veteran hotelier Yitzhak Bloch.

He told The Jerusalem Post that at the age of 71 he felt he should make room for younger entrepreneurs. The buyers, who represent South American and Israeli interests, intend spending \$500,000 on enlargement and renovations. Bloch will continue to manage the hotel for another two years.

Since the Nof was opened, near the Dan Carmel hotel, no other hotel has been built in Haifa.

Haifa leads country in unemployment

HAIFA. — This city still leads unemployment, with 22 registered jobless receiving a benefit last month, Haifa Labour Council Secretary Moshe Wertz told a meeting of the council night.

The number of people seeking employment was 4,274 in November — an increase of 200 over previous month.

The figures meant that 22 per cent of the total number of employed throughout the country are in the Haifa area, he said.

ENTERTAINMENT

TELEVISION
EDUCATIONAL
8.15 Judaism 8.40 English 7.9.00
Antiquities 9.35 English 10.10 Elements
School Science 10.30 Summum Street
11.00 Math 11.15 Geography 11.45
Advice and Guidance 7.9.12.05 Science 7.9.12.05
High School Literature 13.00
Geography 7.9.13.00 French 15.00 Battle of the Planets 15.30 Summum Street 16.00
This is it — live youth magazine 17.00
New Evening — live magazine
CHILDREN'S PROGRAMMES:
17.30 Somersaults — with Dalia and Tzipi
ARABIC LANGUAGE programmes:
18.30 News roundup
18.32 Situation
18.45 Cartoons
19.00 Meeting — current affairs
19.30 News
HEBREW PROGRAMMES resume at 20.00 with Mabat Newsline
20.30 Basketball — live broadcast from Yehuda of the match between Limoges, France and Maccabi Tel Aviv
21.10 News roundup
21.20 Basketball — second half
22.10 Rape of Angels — part 3 of a 4-part mini-series based on the novel by Sidney Sheldon, starring Lady's Smith
23.00 Sofa Discussion — with Prof. Hava Lazarus-Yaffe
23.30 News
JORDAN TV (unofficial):
17.30 Cartoons 18.00 French Hour 19.00 News in French 19.30 News in Hebrew 20.00 News in Arabic 20.30 Are You Being Served 21.10 Love Boat 22.00 News in English 22.15 Movie of the Week

ON THE AIR

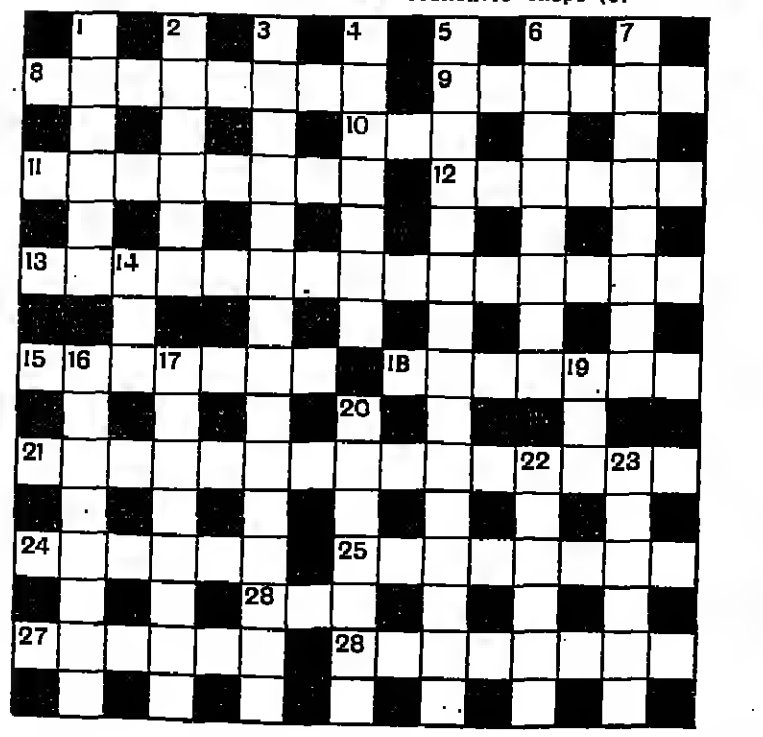
Voice of Music
6.02 Musical Clock
7.07 Elgar: Pomp and Circumstance, March No. 4 (London Philharmonic, Barenboim); Elgar: The Lady from Spain, Suite (Marriner); Butterworth: A Shropshire Lad; Bax: Dance to a Shropshire Tune; Beethoven: Piano Concerto No. 3, K.370; Brahms: Piano Concerto No. 1, Op. 1; (Arthur Schnabel's last recording); Mahler: Symphony No. 4 (1909) An hour with pianist Vladimir Horowitz.
12.05 Perce: Preliata; Bloch: Baal Shem; Copan: Hallelujah; Shlomo Jaffe: Poem on a Jewish Wedding; Kaniak: Hassidic Rhapsody; Works by Bernstein, Khachaturian and Tchaikovsky.
15.00 The History of Music
15.30 Youth Program: Symphony No. 4.
16.30 Arish Vardi, piano — Dahl: Dream Pieces; Bach: From the Little Preludes and the Notebook for Anna Magdalena.
8 a.m.: Schubert: 2 Pieces; Ravel: Symphonies No. 2, 4; 10 a.m.: Premiere Performance of New Work; Debussy: Children's Corner.
10.00 Music Magazine
10.05 Famous Artists in Historical Performances [reprint]
20.00 Concert Preview
20.25 The Jerusalem Symphony Orchestra

CINEMAS

JERUSALEM 4, 7, 9
Eden: The Genius; Edison: Revenge of the Ninja; Hallelujah: Trading Places 6.45; Mitchell: Heat and Dust 7.9; Orion: Max Dugan Returns; Orion: Money Python, Something Different 7.9; Monty Python and the Holy Grail 4; Semadar: Officer and Gentleman 7.9; Shalev: Ha'uma: Murderous Summer 6.45, 9.15; Cinema One: The Producers 7.9; Cinematheque: A Bridge Too Far 7.9; The Belle American 7.30 (small hall); Amel: 10, Mad Max II, midnight; Israel Museum: Heidi 3.30.
TEL AVIV 4, 7, 9, 15, 9.30
Alhambra: Revenge of the Ninja; Be-Yehuda: Lone Wolf Macquade; Cinema 1: Trading Places 4.30, 7.9, 9.30; Cinema 2: Officer and Gentleman 4.30, 7.9, 9.30; Aladdin and the Wonderful Lamp 4.30; Cinema 3: Blue Thunder: 4.30, 7.9, 9.30; Cinema 4: Cannery Row 1.15, 7.9, 9.30; Cinema 5: Psycho II 4.30, 7.05, 9.15; Roller Ball 10.30, 1.30; Cinema One: The Way We Were; Cinema Argentin: Film Festival 7.15, 9.30; Dekel: Gabriela 7.15, 9.30; Doves: Class 9.30; Superman III 5.30, 7.15; Sea, film, midnight; Kather: Harry Tracy; Gatt 1.15; Yoo: Carmen; Gordon: Cutter's Way 5.30, 7.30, 9.40; Hedi: Baby Love 4.30, 7.30, 9.30; Lev II: Mimi Python's The Meaning of Life 1.30, 4.30, 7.15, 9.30; Lev II: Loco Hero 1.30, 4.30, 7.15, 9.30; Loco: Chut, Les Armes; Maxine: Looking for Mr. Goodbar; Mograbi: War Games 4.30, 7.30; Orly: Deadly Summer 4.15, 7.30; Parke: Keatium 10, 12, 2, 4, 7.15; Peer: Praying Mantis; Shahar: Flash Dance 4.30, 7.15, 9.30; Superman III 4.15, 7.30; Twilight Zone 5, 7.15, 9.30; Teatler: Merry Christmas; Mr. Lawrence: Tel Aviv Musicals; Yot: Zafar; To Begi Aguin; Beth Hachoch: La Passante de Sans Souci 8.30.
HAIFA 4, 6.45, 9
Amphitheatre: Midnight Express 6.45, 9; Amos: Concrete Jungle; Atsman: Lou Wolf; Chav: Flash Dance; Mosh: Brecht's 6.45, 9; Odeon: Class; Orion: Sea Around the World; Odeon: Odeon Local Hero 6.45, 9; Peer: Merry Christmas; Mr. Lawrence; Ron: Yot Ancher; Shavit: To Begin Again 6.45, 9.
RAMAT GAN
Amos: I Love You Carmen 7.15, 9.30; Budkins and Brommicks 4; Lily: Yot 7.15, 9.30; Odeon: Trading Places 4.30, 7.30; Orion: Baby Love 7.15, 9.30; Ramat Gan: Yot 7.15, 9.30.
HERZLIYA
David: High Road to China 7.15, 9.30; Thelert: Blue Thunder 7.15, 9.30.
HOLON
Havaya: Trail of the Pink Panther 4.30, 7.30; Return of the Jedi 4.30

ONE-AND-ONE CROSSWORD

ACROSS
8 Become lyrical about a rise of derisory value? (8)
9 Their ventures are accompanied by bowls of laughter (6)
10 Little Joey down under? (5)
11 Pesta we exchanged for a flower? (5, 3)
12 ... a seaside one cultivated by the frugal (6)
13 The tutelary spirit who chaired the meeting brilliantly? (9, 6)
14 Delivers a severe reprimand against costly indoor spreads, maybe? (7)
15 The part that is last to have trouble in mind? (4, 3)
21 Needlessly give sage advice as a minister (6, 2, 3, 4)
24 Apparently afraid to put a stop to the business? (4, 2)
25 Ladies' outfit badly taken in by a coxman (8)
26 Nothing we are indebted for (3)
27 Makes obscure requests about the Foreign Office (6)
28 Version of a sea taut that could be positively sickening (8)



GENERAL ASSISTANCE

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QUICK CROSSWORD
ACROSS
1 Ceremony
3 Judgment
5 Laughter
10 Tread underfoot
11 Bow
DOWN
1 Cuban dance
2 Sailor
4 Tempt
5 Slipping type
6 Vague
7 Goaded
8 Stylized
12 Fellow-worker
14 Leaves
15 Rumbled
17 Chirpy insect
19 Rim
20 Song
24 Vase
13 Scarlet dye-stuff
14 Erase
16 Observed
18 Bias
20 Tip
22 Insignia
23 Haggard
25 French novelist
26 Beguudge

YESTERDAY'S SOLUTION
MAKERING SAIGON
O L E E L U O
B R O W N O W L M A R M O T
I W A Y P A B R H
L I E S A B O U T A R E N A
E R S P I T P A T R I C K
H B L E N S
Y N C O A S I
S I E V E N B E R T E N
T F N E B L R F
A N I M A L S O U L M A T E
C C M G E I R
K E E N E R P E N N I N E S
QUICK SOLUTION
ACROSS: 1 Marrow, 8 Beam, 10 Center, 13 Tulp, 12 Lutz, 12 Swift, 15 Conra, 18 Free, 22 Clear, 24 One-eyed, 26 Rocket, 23 Cannon, 20 Bow, 25 Shutter, 20 Clock, 2 Court, 4 Cartily, 5 Build, 6 Lamb, 9 Flowerpot, 14 Journey, 15 Crayon, 14 Wading, 19 Scar, 20 Nench, 21 Decay.

Bank shares up, but others down

AVIV. — Bank shares which part of the Treasury agreement, today got their first boost in a week as their prices, for the first time, advanced by as much as 2.1 per cent. Mizrahi by 2.9 per cent, and Bank Leumi by 2.1 per cent.

Tel Aviv Stock Exchange

By JOSEPH MORGENTHAU

In a broader sense the non-bank sectors of the market sagged slightly, as their index fell by 0.1 per cent. Shares falling by as much as 1.5 per cent or more were numbered 13, while shares numbered only 35.

Brokers and speculators seem to have had cold feet, suggested an observer. This could well have been the case, since those individuals who "bought in" near the end of November undoubtedly were to cash in on their positions today and still point to a profit.

Removers in the non-banking sector continued to shrink and less than the equivalent on a million.

stitutional investors as well as investment companies appeared to be in the buying end. Those who current prices as being at gain basement levels maintained their drive to accumulate.

However, this type of investor takes a long-term view of the market and is not concerned if the share in his portfolio show a short-term gain, or loss. These investors are looking for major capital gains, which calls for a measure of patience and the financial ability to hold interim breaks in the market.

put in an indecisive session, with prices swinging in both directions. Dollar-linked bonds moved lower by as much as three per cent.

The shekel was valued by 0.4 of one per cent against the dollar.

Afer VeSela debated yesterday and traded unchanged at 160. Considering the generally poor tenor of the market it was a reasonable start.

Meir Ezra, whose shares debuted several sessions back, saw his newly registered shares zip ahead by 15 per cent. The third one of the recent new issues, Mashov Computers, traded unchanged at 600.

Among bank shares and bankholding companies which are not part of the agreement, the trend was downward.

Maritime Bank 0.5 shares, in the aftermath of their recent upsurge, were down by 7.5 per cent. Danot 1 was 10 per cent lower, while the 5 shares were 7.7 per cent lower. The shares of FIBI and First International were down by 7.1 and 8.1 per cent.

Losses of up to 6.7 per cent — as was the case with Tefahot pref. — were the order of the day in the mortgage bank group. Biayan, after a cycle of sessions of "sellers only," was registered once again as "sellers only" and its price was dropped automatically by five per cent.

Merav continued to move against the trend and picked up 9.1 per cent.

Insurance issues wound up the day with minor gains. The group was helped by a 10 per cent rise in Sahar. Ararat 0.5, however, was down by 9.5 per cent.

The service and trade group was marked by declining prices. Ya'anah managed to eke out a 2.1

per cent gain, but Cial Computers was listed as "sellers only." Nikov Computers 5 was 8.3 per cent lower.

The land development, real estate and citrus plantation sector was down by 1.57 per cent. The Africa-Israel option was "sellers only" for the second session and could suffer a major loss when it trades this morning without price limitations. Property Building was fractionally lower, but Israel Citrus Plantations 0.5 was nearly nine per cent lower. Rassco pref. lost more than eight per cent.

Industrials were broadly lower. Elbit and Elron were both down by more than three per cent. Alliance, however, was up by 6.1 per cent.

Atlas, manufacturer of balva and sweets, saw its shares falter by nearly 10 per cent. Ata C was "sellers only," while Dubek 1 was falling by 5.1 per cent.

Vitalgo 1 was 10.1 per cent lower, but Par-ze 5 managed to advance by 10 per cent. Lodzia 0.4 was down by more than 10 per cent, but the 0.1 shares gained 9.2 per cent. Dead Sea Works edged 2.3 per cent lower. Cyclone, both the 1 and 5 shares, was clipped for 10 per cent losses. Tedeia was a 10.1 per cent loser.

Investment company issues were the day's worst performers, as the sector declined by 3.77 per cent. The Israel Corp. 5 shares were down 10 per cent, as was the case with Central Trade. Cial Industries was on the "sellers only" list. Piryon backedtrack by 5.6 per cent.

Oils moved with the general trend as prices headed lower.

Zecharia Drucker announced that its shares will go ex-50 per cent bonus shares on January 2, 1984, with the allocation taking place January 5.

Arbitrage is the process of buying and selling the same securities on two different markets when their prices are not identical. The action of the arbitrage specialists generally irons out the price differentials.

Yesterday in the wake of a small drop in the price of the Elron Electronic shares on the Tel Aviv Stock Exchange, the Elron Electronic American registry followed suit and eased by \$0.25 on the American over-the-counter market.

Estate agents win claim for linked commission

BEERSHEBA (Itim). — Two real-estate agents this week won a decision in the local district court which linked their claim for commission on a sale to the cost-of-living index from the time the deal was consummated.

The two had already won their claim in the magistrate's court for payment of commission by a couple whose apartment they sold, but the amount was linked only from the time at which they filed their claim. The agents then went to the district court, arguing that the linkage should be from the time of the deal and not of the claim file.

The district court accepted their plea and awarded them the 1 per cent commission, linked from the time of the sale of the apartment, plus 3 per cent interest.

Bank of Israel exchange rates

December 14, 1983	IS
U.S. dollar	100.4001
British sterling	142.2167
German mark	36.2566
French franc	11.8694
Dutch guilder	32.2194
Swiss franc	45.3437
Swedish krona	12.3737
Norwegian krona	12.8858
Danish krone	10.0212
Finland mark	17.0603
Canadian dollar	80.2591
Australian dollar	90.1091
South African rand	82.4636
Belgian franc (10)	17.8521
Austrian schilling (10)	51.4569
Italian lire (100)	42.5695
Japanese yen (100)	266.06
Jordanian dinar	18.39
Lebanese lira	89.3561
Egyptian pound	

Commercial Banks

Bank	Price	Change
IDB p	780.10	—
IDB p	3360	1204 -70
IDB p	3450	13 n.e.
IDB p	20800	n.e.
IDB p	2260	110 -30
IDB p	2360	132 n.e.
IDB p	4390	10 n.e.
Discount A	4325	67 n.e.
Discount B	4325	24 -70
Discount C	4325	35 +4
Mizrahi p	303	2168 +40
Mizrahi p	1175	102 n.e.
Mizrahi p	1250	173 -25
Mizrahi p	11400	-300 -26
Mizrahi p	625	139 -15
Mizrahi p	213	2080 n.e.
Mizrahi p	164	1469 -15
Mizrahi p	2990	1 n.e.
Mizrahi p	2337	2816 +90
Mizrahi p	2260	184 n.e.
Mizrahi p	4507	457 -80
Mizrahi p	8150	10 -500

Land, Real Estate, Citrus

Bank	Price	Change
Oren	151	268 -16
Oren	233	-15 -61
Oren	175	157 -15
Oren	157	36 -19
Oren	243	38 -13
Oren	94	204 +3
Oren	53	62 -9
Oren	151	93 -12
Oren	1210	-110 -100
Oren	225	17 -28
Oren	1520	52 n.e.
Oren	509	114 -13
Oren	265	1 -15
Oren	800	20 -12
Oren	620	3 -31

Mortgage Banks

Bank	Price	Change
Adomim 01	905	10 +25
Adomim 01	1340	2 n.e.
Adomim 01	1354	5 n.e.
Adomim 01	1575	—
Adomim 01	903	59 +5
Adomim 01	145	243 n.e.
Adomim 01	1140	3 -5
Adomim 01	900	-8 -23
Adomim 01	342	4 -8
Adomim 01	345	3 n.e.
Adomim 01	3635	3 n.e.
Adomim 01	1440	14 -5
Adomim 01	1120	20 -80
Adomim 01	1040	34 -50
Adomim 01	1950	4 -1
Adomim 01	390	3 -20
Adomim 01	186	846 +1
Adomim 01	316	162 +6
Adomim 01	305	51 n.e.
Adomim 01	108	345 +1
Adomim 01	275	2185 +23

Financial Institutions

Bank	Price	Change
Shilon p	148	248 n.e.
Shilon p	842	—
Shilon p	762	27 -9
Shilon p	786	n.e.
Shilon p	1525	124 -8
Shilon p	1050	3 n.e.
Shilon p	7050	3 n.e.
Shilon p	230	8 -10
Shilon p	169	60.1 +8
Shilon p	635	23 n.e.

Insurance

Bank	Price	Change
Aviv p	368	57 -16
Aviv p	171	89 -14
Aviv p	450	11 -3
Aviv p	171	14 -18
Aviv p	569	6 n.e.
Aviv p	202	279 +1
Aviv p	119	240 +4
Aviv p	295	631 -10
Aviv p	328	47 n.e.
Aviv p	1829	10 +9
Aviv p	464	29 n.e.
Aviv p	422	34 n.e.
Aviv p	418	27 n.e.
Aviv p	520	32 n.e.
Aviv p	265	65 +2
Aviv p	104	163 +2
Aviv p	58	1 -17
Aviv p	1022	29 +72
Aviv p	190	65 +3
Aviv p	1375	15 +125
Aviv p	170	172 -7
Aviv p	1100	35 n.e.
Aviv p	430	18 n.e.
Aviv p	140	198 n.e.

Trade, Services & Utilities

Bank	Price	Change
Galei Zohar 1	322	35 n.e.
Galei Zohar 1	147	50 -28
Galei Zohar 1	43	110 -18
Galei Zohar 1	251	79 -1
Galei Zohar 1	2710	84 -43
Galei Zohar 1	34	36 -10
Galei Zohar 1	125	76 -1
Galei Zohar 1	32	264 +2
Galei Zohar 1	382	88 -12
Galei Zohar 1	238	285 n.e.
Galei Zohar 1	935	65 +16
Galei Zohar 1	496	6 -400
Galei Zohar 1	935	n.e.
Galei Zohar 1	517	92 -25
Galei Zohar 1	315	101 -14
Galei Zohar 1	223	65 +16
Galei Zohar 1	385	37 n.e.
Galei Zohar 1	520	-10 -20
Galei Zohar 1	150	56 +10
Galei Zohar 1	38	66 n.e.
Galei Zohar 1	1950	236 +40
Galei Zohar 1	1535	49 +35
Galei Zohar 1	474	s.o.1 -25
Galei Zohar 1	1315	126 +12
Galei Zohar 1	410	28 -10
Galei Zohar 1	250	30 -10
Galei Zohar 1	175	206 +14
Galei Zohar 1	134	48 +10
Galei Zohar 1	459	25 +24
Galei Zohar 1	247	31 -6

Investment Companies

Bank	Price	Change
Cyclone 1	474	51 -46
Cyclone 1	247	17 -28
Cyclone 1	99	90 n.e.
Cyclone 1	145	36 n.e.
Cyclone 1	99	10 -5
Cyclone 1	545	9 -5
Cyclone 1	290	174 -9
Cyclone 1	185	1 -30
Cyclone 1	734	108 n.e.
Cyclone 1	161	12 -18
Cyclone 1	756	1 -20
Cyclone 1	273	10 n.e.
Cyclone 1	26	379 -6
Cyclone 1	434	10 -21
Cyclone 1	297	8 n.e.
Cyclone 1	732	1 -1
Cyclone 1	149	1 -10
Cyclone 1	453	6.1 -24
Cyclone 1	1410	1 -123
Cyclone 1	525	49 -54
Cyclone 1	340	151 -10
Cyclone 1	238	30 -1
Cyclone 1	125	15 n.e.
Cyclone 1	50	58 +6
Cyclone 1	499	54 -26
Cyclone 1	441	48 -10
Cyclone 1	163	n.e.
Cyclone 1	363	481 +6
Cyclone 1	791	4 -27
Cyclone 1	341	26 -10
Cyclone 1	255	n.e.
Cyclone 1	410	10 -9
Cyclone 1	31	35 -5
Cyclone 1	160	117 +9

Recent Issues

Bank	Price	Change
Mashov Comp. 1	600	124 n.e.

Most active stocks

Bank	Price	Change
Hapalim p	2337	65,831.0m. +90
Leumi	1483	56,625.0m. +50
Leumi	1380	56,625.0m. +50
Leumi	1380	56,625.0m. +50
Leumi	1380	56,625.0m. +50

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Founded in 1932 by GERSHON AGRON, who was Editor until 1955; Editor 1955-1974 TED LURIE; Editor 1974-1975 LEA BEN-DOR; EDITORIAL OFFICES AND ADMINISTRATION The Jerusalem Post Building, Romema, Jerusalem P.O. Box 81 (91000) Telephone 538181, Telex 26121, TEL AVIV 11 Rehov Carlebach, P.O. Box 20126 (61201) Telephone 294222, HAIFA 16 Rehov Nordau, Hadar Hacarmel, P.O. Box 4810 (31047) Telephone 645444, Published daily, except Saturdays, in Jerusalem, Israel by The Palestine Post Ltd. Printed by The Jerusalem Post Press in Jerusalem. Registered at the G.P.O. Copyright of all material reserved, reproduction permitted only by arrangement.

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Timely message

IT WAS A GOOD idea for Premier (and Foreign Minister) Yitzhak Shamir to convey the message to the Kremlin that, contrary to some false reports, Israel has no intention of purchasing U.S. Pershing missiles that could hit Soviet territory, nor any plan to attack the Soviet Union's ally, Syria.

The Soviet media had earlier reported that the acquisition by Israel of Pershing missiles and an assault on Syria had been agreed upon as parts of the strategic cooperation accord reached between Mr. Shamir and President Reagan.

Since the Soviets maintain no official ties with this country, Mr. Shamir, in taking his initiative, had to use the good offices of the Dutch, whose embassy has been handling Israeli affairs in Moscow. News of his action through this channel was apparently leaked even before the message itself got to the Kremlin, and it was wrongly described as an actual letter. In fact, Mr. Shamir merely drew the attention of the Soviet leaders to his statement in the Knesset last week in which he had set the record straight as regards the Soviet allegations.

What matters, however, is that the message was sent, no matter what its official form.

If the Soviet leaders believed their own propaganda about Israel's intentions, which is rather likely, it is doubtful whether they will radically change their mind in the wake of a message from Mr. Shamir. The official Soviet version of Israel today reflects an updated version of "The Protocols of the Elders of Zion." It will take much more than a single denial from Jerusalem to persuade the Politbureau that Israel does not represent a conspiratorial Zionist instrument of American imperialism.

Supposed proof of Israel's complicity in the American design on the Soviet Union was unfortunately provided in the November 1981 memorandum on strategic cooperation, which, alone of all western defence arrangements, was openly portrayed as a means of "stemming Soviet aggression."

In Washington two weeks ago, some effort was made to blunt the anti-Soviet aspects of U.S.-Israel cooperation. President Reagan, it is true, referred to "the threat to our mutual interests posed by increased Soviet involvement in the Middle East." But Mr. Shamir sought to drop all direct mention of the Soviets, and to define the aim of the accord as being "to strengthen Israel and to deter threats to the region."

What is a matter of direct concern to Israel is not global Soviet power but Arab aggression armed by the Soviets. Today, Arab aggression is epitomized by militant Syria, the Soviet Union's ally. To ward off the danger from Syria, Israel must take appropriate defensive measures, aided by the U.S. But this does not mean that Israel has the mind to go to war on Syria, let alone to direct long-range missiles against the Soviets.

All this would seem to be self-evident, but since it clearly is not, the point bears repeating, as Mr. Shamir did.

Austerity for whom?

ISRAEL IS NOT a country whose public officials shop in special stores where high-grade commodities are available, at cheap prices, which are not dispensed to the hoi polloi. But the norm seems already to have been established here that the servants of the establishment deserve not only a decent standard of living but also a battery of "perks" that make the eyes of ordinary citizens pop out in amazement. And that these are coming even to retired public officials.

Knesset Members are allowed 2,000 free telephone calls a month. This would seem to be fair, seeing how active MKs are in the public service. But, marvel of marvels, our parliamentarians retain this same right even when they retire. Retired ministers and judges, by contrast, are granted only 1,000 free telephone calls. This is patent discrimination. How to overcome it?

Since the economy is now in deep crisis, the state budget is due to be slashed, and the people at large are being urged to tighten their belts, it would seem logical for the MKs to make do with only 1,000 free calls. But this is apparently too complicated a solution. So a sub-committee of the Knesset Finance Committee on Tuesday recommended that ministers and judges, too, should receive 2,000 free telephone calls on retirement.

Granted, passage of the recommendation by the parent committee will not bankrupt the exchequer. But this latest example of profligacy in high places might persuade a lot of people that austerity, described as the necessary prelude to recovery, is meant only for them and not for their "betters."

POSTSCRIPTS

THE RITUAL bath at the ultra-Orthodox Samaritan town of Emanuel sounds like a Hollywood movie set. According to a public-relations firm that works for Emanuel, the *milke* cost about \$1 million, with three stores, over 20 baths, a Turkish bath and a Finnish bath. A special ceramic floor that reduces slipping was installed. Women may enjoy a cosmetics salon, and the men can go to a physiotherapy room. Everything was done, according to the press release, to ensure privacy, and some residents of Emanuel brought their own ritual bath enclosure in the building for their personal use. J.S.I.

POWDERED gecko and toad, with a dose of strychnine, can cure a serious blood-vessel disease, *The China Daily* reported recently.

The newspaper said that since 1979 the remedy has cured 87 per cent of the 30,000 patients treated, and saved 95 of 97 patients from the operating table in cases where amputation had been thought unavoidable.

The cure was devised by Ma Tongchang, a 29-year-old doctor of traditional medicine at Anyang Medical School clinic in Henan Province.

Ma studied classical Chinese medical texts and tasted more than 300 poisonous insects and herbs before arriving at his formula, the report said.

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IMMEDIATELY AFTER their meetings with President Reagan, Prime Minister Shamir and Defence Minister Arens heralded the beginning of a new era in American-Israeli relations. However, since these two leaders are clever and cautious politicians, they were careful to keep a way of retreat open in case this new era is postponed or does not materialize at all. As if incidentally, they added that one should wait a few months for the beginning of this historical breakthrough to be seen. This qualification of their own achievement is not less important than their main contention.

Their precautionary addendum is an additional proof that Shamir and Arens have become experienced local politicians who can play the internal political and rhetorical games very well. It is clear that by these additions they meant to minimize possible internal political losses. But it also seems clear that they know very well that, in fact, there is nothing new in relations with the U.S. after their Washington visit.

Shamir and Arens know that the results are simply another swing of the pendulum. Paradoxically, these swings are the only permanent feature of these relations. Even without mentioning the uncertainty concerning the implementation of the promises given by Reagan and his advisers, or analysing whether there were secret agreements, it is clear that we now have more of the same in this sphere.

A short historical reminder will show the pattern: the initial sympathy toward young Israel shown by Truman was followed by a cooling-off period during the Eisenhower presidency; Kennedy and Johnson showed a greater sympathy; the Nixon period was characterized by fluctuations; toward the end of his term Carter showed hostility toward Israel's policies; and after a period

ONE OF the great non-translatables of modern Hebrew is the word *kacha!* It is often used to answer the questions that begin "How come...?" The answer *kacha* means "just because," but that doesn't quite capture the word's hidden charm. *Kacha!* is what one answers a child who asks, "Why don't I have a tail like kitty?" or "How come it doesn't rain cold?"

One of the most important differences between Israeli students of economics and their American counterparts is that the former have trouble accepting the fact that so much of government economic policy is based on nothing but *kacha*. American students are much more willing to believe that. The reason for this is not that the American Government operates with much less efficiency and rationality than the Israeli government.

But the people of the U.S. have a long tradition of being suspicious of government, especially big government, stretching back to independence. This suspicion is a priceless natural resource, and, in my opinion, explains a great deal of the vitality of the American economy.

One of the great challenges for Zionism is to inculcate a similar mistrust of government economic policy in Israel. Toward that end, let us review some recent government actions and ask why the government took them. Anyone who has trouble answering *kacha!* is in need of economic reconditioning. All ready?

READERS' LETTERS

FRIENDSHIP WITH COSTA RICA

To the Editor of The Jerusalem Post: Sir, — After reading Yakov Rahkinn's article about our relationship with Costa Rica (November 27), I entitled "Friendship disdained." I think that, to start with, another title should have been chosen to make clear the point he makes.

Israel's strong ties of friendship with the vibrant democracy of Costa Rica stems from the creation of the State of Israel and was underlined in all circumstances, in international forums, in our day-to-day relationship in cultural and trade fields.

We have many things in common with Costa Rica. We are both small countries trying to survive with our ideals in a sea of turmoil, fighting problems that beset most of the countries in the world today: inflation, unemployment, a hostile surrounding. As with true love, we are together for better or worse, always hoping for times to change propitiously.

Let's accentuate the positive. We are going through very lean years,

Much ado about nothing

By GABI SHEFFER

of moderate cooperation between the Reagan administration and Israel, there is now a certain revival of intimacy between the two governments.

IT IS TRUE that current public opinion in the U.S. supports Israel. It is also true that the White House is inclined to increase its military and political support of Israel. But it is equally important to examine and evaluate what determines the amplitude of the swing to see why the past has been problematic as apparently it will be in the future.

This current honeymoon is connected, on the one hand, to Reagan's personal sympathy, and on the other to immediate American interests and needs, rather than to long-range strategic factors. There is no evidence of wide support for the notion that Israel is a permanent strategic asset.

The U.S. probably did not intend to get so deeply involved in the Lebanese swamp, but now that it is there, its prestige is at stake. Therefore America's immediate, and pressing, need in Lebanon dictates close relations with Israel. Thus, for example, Israel can prevent an aggressive Syrian move to capture American troops who are almost hostages of the Syrians and Lebanese. Israel might also help in preventing a Syrian move to gain permanent control over Lebanon.

Closer relations between the superpower and its client is also related to the approaching presidential elections. This time Reagan cannot ignore the Jewish vote and fund-raising potential. Reagan has learned that the American Jewish community is not a solid Democratic bloc. Large groups within this community, who support the Likud government in Israel, show increasing tendencies to vote for a Republican candidate. Moreover, these Jews, as well as Jews who have traditionally supported the Democrats, are now ready to raise money for the Republican campaign.

At the same time, there are some basic factors that contribute to the erosion of support for Israel. Despite public opinion polls that show a certain stability in sympathy toward Israel, the process of erosion continues behind the scenes.

PRESIDENT REAGAN's need to solve his problems in Lebanon and the election campaign motivate his promotion of a superficial intimacy, but the situation within the administration is quite different. In particular, it should be noted that the permanent bureaucracy is crucial in shaping long-term U.S. policies. Presidents come and go; the bureaucrats remain.

Within the bureaucracy there are deep splits. The main controversy

within the administration is between the State Department and the Pentagon. The importance of these two agencies in regard to policies in the Middle East has been enhanced by the relative weakness of the National Security Council.

The State Department Arabists who claim that the true American interest is in the Arab world have not disappeared. The State Department's intelligence department does not like close relations with Israel, and its heads would like to support the opposition to the implementation of Reagan's promises. The secretary of state's support for Israel is a function of his loyalty to the president and his continuous struggle with the boss of the Pentagon.

The balance of power in the Pentagon is somewhat different. Secretary of Defence Caspar Weinberger himself is far from supporting the notion that Israel is a strategic asset for the U.S. Unlike the situation in the State Department, the Pentagon's intelligence community and the strategists dealing with U.S. deployment support an Israeli orientation. But they are checked and balanced by the generals and senior officials responsible for regular operations, all of whom prefer the Arabs. In short, large important groups in the bureaucracy are quite hostile toward Israel, and they provide a constant source of passive and active resistance, which does not diminish over the years.

Other traditional sources of support for Israel also show slow but continuous erosion. Israel's natural and most devoted partner — the American Jewish community — is slowly changing its attitudes. In various quarters of the community, criticisms of Israel are mounting. This trend is very clear among the younger segments of this community. On the whole, the community is becoming more apathetic

than in the past in regard to further, internal problems to entrenchment, and there signs of fatigue in their actions behalf of Israel. The American bureaucrats and politicians become aware of these factors, their behaviour in the long run be influenced accordingly.

Meanwhile the efficacy of Arab and Palestinian lobbying is increasing. They have gained access to politicians and bureaucrats. These lobbies are particularly successful during conservative administrations, which are influenced by bankers, industrialists and companies. This factor will be important during a second Reagan term in office.

The gradually growing sympathy for the Palestinians should be taken into account by the U.S., as there is increasing realization that, Palestinian issue is the crux of Arab-Israeli conflict. Even if there is no great support of the PLO other extremist groups, nevertheless there is a growing sympathy for demand for self-determination. Once again these sentiments prevalent within the bureaucracy and therefore its officials will promote the subject parties during crucial stages of the process, when it is resumed.

Finally, Israel's dependence on the U.S. is growing dramatic. The politicians and bureaucrats of course, aware of this fact, seem to be because of its pre economic problem, Israel is in into the dependence trap. The direct indirect costs are menacing. I been said that there is no free lunch. The question then is when and Israel will be asked to pay.

The writer is associate director Leonard Davis Institute, at the Hebrew University, and a senior lecturer in P. Science.

All-purpose answer

By STEVEN E. PLAUT

In recent years, the Finance Ministry and the Bank of Israel have been trying to nudge Israeli savers away from dollar-linked savings plans and into deposits linked to the Consumer Price Index, i.e. Israeli inflation. The thinking here is that dollar-linkage makes it difficult to have a real devaluation. Every time there is a nominal devaluation, savings increase in value, and the public feels richer. Yet the public did show a willingness to cooperate, and since 1980, the percentage of family savings in dollar-linked Patam savings accounts dropped by over a quarter.

Then one fine October morning the government decided to bail out the investors in bank shares, at public expense naturally. Those who speculated in bank shares were offered a government-backed savings scheme linked to the dollar. Thus the government increased the portion of wealth that increases following every devaluation. Why should public funds be spent on bailing out speculators? *Kacha!* And why bail them out by letting them

link their investment to the dollar of all things? *Kacha!*

THE MAIN ARCHITECT of the welfare scheme for bank speculators was Knesset Member Avraham Shapira. The same man has now begun to advocate what in effect will be a tax on holders of dollar-linked savings by instituting a special (lower) exchange rate for these folks. So why was he so enthusiastic two months ago about handing out dollar-linked welfare? *Kacha!* And why didn't the Bank of Israel scream bloody murder at least about the dollar-linkage part? *Kacha!*

By the way, it would be reasonably pleasing were there only two different exchange rates in use in Israel. In fact, there are thousands. Every single import or export transaction takes place at a different effective exchange rate. Why? *Kacha!* The government discriminates against exports and in favour of import substitutes; by forcing those marketing the former to use a lower exchange rate. How come? *Kacha!*

Throughout history, Jews around the world have always succeeded in establishing businesses and raising capital without the authorities doing it for them. But the government of Israel decided that here in Zion only it is capable of doing this. The government seems to believe that Israelis are bright enough and responsible enough to elect a prime minister and Knesset, but not bright enough to decide which soft drink to buy, what goods to produce, how and where to produce them. So the government decides all that for them. Why? *Kacha!*

The government completely controls the capital market, and then claims that unless it hands out credit to its favourites, they won't be able to raise funds. Apparently the Jews forgot how to invest when their feet touched holy soil.

Now if some Israel nevertheless raises funds directly from the public, rather than accept government handouts, the government labels this a "grey market." Why "grey"? *Kacha!* It appears to me that politicians who use that expression are themselves lacking in certain grey matter.

The government supplies exporters with "exchange rate insurance." Everyone knows that this is nothing but a subsidy. So why not call the beast by its name? And why not give a direct cash subsidy instead, which would at least be less wasteful than "exchange rate insurance"? *Kacha!*

THE NEW finance minister has demanded that the marginal income tax rate on families with high incomes be raised to 66 per cent. All the estimates seem to indicate that the tax will add nothing to the public coffers and will simply discourage effort, work and investment. The minister seems to agree with this assessment; he doesn't maintain that the tax increase will

actually bring in extra funds says he wants to raise the tax to "hurt high-income people." Will to "hurt high-income people" state and low-income people get something in return? *Kacha!*

With an oncoming recession everyone seems to be talking, the problem of yerida. As out, the government is heavily subsidizing by maintaining a wide between the nominal and the effective exchange rate. The value of a dollar, i.e. the dollars at which Israel's foreign change operations take place about 40 per cent higher than nominal exchange rate, emigrants buy their dollars at nominal rate, getting a bargain funding their settlement at. Even if the yored buys the dollar on Lillienblum Street, he pays less than what those dollars are worth, what their effective cost the country. Why maintain between the effective and nominal exchange rates? Why subsidize dim? You know the answer.

People who search for a more rational explanation government foolishness are w their time.

Perhaps the most important tion that must be answered is w government insists on continuing print money. By the Bank of Israel estimates, printing money enables the government to cut an "inflation tax" of less than cent of Israel's national product would make more sense to regular taxes a bit, or better slash spending, and put an end and for all to the wholesale of money and Israel's inflation nightmare.

Why perpetuate the hypochondria with all its waste and tion? Why? Just plain *kacha!*

The writer teaches economics Technion and is associated with the Centre for Social and Economic Studies.

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